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The Octogenarian Ping-Pong Shark

The Flying Spaghetti Monster

How Jews Inspired Vulcans

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LEARN TO COOK LIKE MacGyver!

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MENTAL BREAKDOWN

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BY HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS, MAGGIE KOERTH-BAKER, LINDA RODRIGUEZ, AND ETHAN TREX

Grab a hot dog and watch the fireworks as mental_floss celebrates 20 uniquely American tales. From Amish baseball to a trash-talking President to an immigrant hot-sauce maker who bottled the American dream, our special brand of patriotism is guaranteed to leave you beaming with quirky pride.

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OVER THE RAINBOW: THE TECHNICOLOR LIFE OF THE MAN WHO CREATED OZ
BY KELLY K. FERGUSON
L. Frank Baum was not very good at a lot of things. His shop went bankrupt, his theater troupe folded, and his poultry magazine never got off the ground. But one thing's for sure—the man could tell a story.

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SPINNING THE GLOBE: YEMEN
BY HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS
It's the world's worst place to be a woman, and a breeding ground for terrorism; yet Yemen still exhibits real charm. Pull up a chair as we cover gingerbread architecture, daggers as an investment strategy, and why two scoops of strawberry ice cream are no match for a woman's veil.

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SCATTER_BRAINED
Cheese

This issue will help you build strong bones *and* brains! Join us as we investigate the complicated side of Easy Cheese, cook fish in a dishwasher, and even spill the beans on who let those dogs out. (Answer: Alex Rodriguez)

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BY ELIZABETH LUNDAY
Plumbers and art historians agree: Even a urinal can be a work of art! Especially if that urinal is Duchamp's *Fountain*. See how one bad-boy Cubist and his less-than-square sensibilities forged an entirely new direction in art.

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golf bag
bolsa^{F} de golf^{M}
sac^{M} de golf^{M}
Golftasche^{F}
sacca^{F}

shoulder strap
correa^{F}
sangle^{F}
Schultergurt^{M}
tracolla^{F}

pocket
bolsillo^{M}
poche^{F}
Seitentasche^{F}
tasca^{F}

corn: cob
maíz^{M}; mazorca^{F}
maïs^{M}: épi^{M}
Mais^{M}: Kolben^{M}
mais^{M}: pannocchia^{F}

silk
pelo^{M} de maíz^{M}
barbe^{F}
Bart^{M}
barba^{F}

kernel
grano^{M}
grain^{M}
Kern^{M}
cariosside^{F}

husk
hoja^{F}
feuille^{F}
Hülse^{F}
cartoccio^{M}

cob
mazorca^{F}
épi^{M}
Kolben^{M}
pannocchia^{F}

watermelon
sandía^{F}
pastèque^{F}
Wassermelone^{F}
cocomero^{M}

thong
chancleta^{F} playera
tong^{M}
Römerpantolette
infradito^{M}

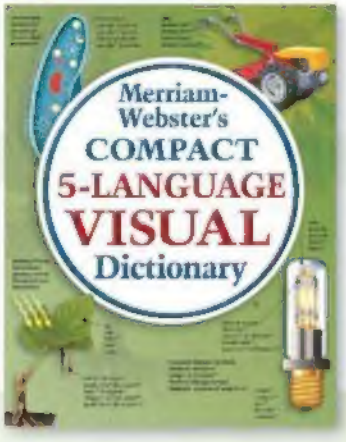
dome tent
tienda^{F} tipo^{M} domo^{M}
tente^{F} dôme^{M}
Kuppelzelt^{N}
tenda^{F} a cupola^{F}

sprinkler hose
manguera^{F} de riego^{M}
tuyau^{M} perforé
Regnerschlauch^{M}
tubo^{M} per irrigazione^{F}

touring bicycle
bicicleta^{F} de turismo^{M}
bicyclette^{F} de tourisme^{M}
Tourenrad^{N}
bicicletta^{F} da turismo^{M}

yellow jacket
avispa^{F}
guêpe^{F}
Wespe^{F}
vespa^{F}

artificial fly
mosca^{F} artificial
mouche^{F} artificielle
Kunstfliege^{F}
mosca^{F} artificiale



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MENTAL FLAWS
FROM MARCH/APRIL 2010:

HAT TRICKS
In last issue's column on Western headgear, we pointed out that a 10-gallon hat really only holds 3 quarts of liquid. Then we started showboating and took the fact into math territory, claiming that the cowboy apparel falls 87% short of its promise. The truth is worse: The hat falls 92.5% short of its promise! Yet another reason why we won't be endorsing it for public office.

BRIDGE AND TUNNEL VISION
March-April's section on Hitchcock cameos stated that the famed director dealt himself a Full House in *Shadow of a Doubt*. And while Hitch did stack his hand, he wasn't playing the refined gentlemen's game of Poker; he was playing a game known on "the street" as Bridge.

PART III AMIGOS
On last issue's Worksheet page, we labeled the second group of answers "Part II," and then labeled the third group of answers, also, "Part II." For all the super-fans who took part in our Ultra-Secret "What's Wrong with These Answer Labels?" Contest, be sure to give yourself one bonus point!

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What's the fastest way to learn a language?

ACT LIKE A BABY.

It's not the advice you'd expect. Learning a new language seems formidable, as we recall from years of combat with grammar and translations in school. Yet infants begin at birth. They communicate at eighteen months and speak the language fluently before they go to school. And they never battle translations or grammar explanations along the way. Born into a veritable language jamboree, children figure out language purely from the sounds, objects and interactions around them. Their senses fire up neural circuits that send the stimuli to different language areas in the brain. Meanings fuse to words. Words string into structures. And language erupts.

Three characteristics of the child's language-learning process are crucial for success:

First, and most importantly, a child's natural language-learning ability emerges only in a speech-soaked, immersion environment free of translations and explanations of grammar. Second, a child's language learning is dramatically accelerated by constant feedback from family and friends. Positive correction and persistent reinforcement nurture the child's language and language skills into full communicative expression. Third, children learn through play, whether it's the arm-waving balancing act that announces their first step or the spluttering preamble to their first words. All the conversational chatter skittering through young children's play with parents and playmates — "...what's this..." "...clap, clap your hands..." "...my ball..."— helps children develop language skills that connect them to the world.

Adults possess this same powerful language-learning ability that orchestrated our language success as children.

Sadly, our clashes with vocabulary drills and grammar explanations force us to conclude it's hopeless. We simply don't have "the language-learning gene." At Rosetta Stone, we know otherwise. You can recover your native language-learning ability as an adult by prompting your brain to learn language the way it's wired to learn language: by complete immersion. Our award-winning, computer-based method does just that. Dynamic Immersion® unlocks the innate language-learning ability you acquired before birth and mastered as a child. By recreating the immersion context in which you learned your first language, you understand, speak, read and write your new language with confidence and accuracy from the beginning — without translations and explanations. At every step and in every skill, you receive instant, actionable feedback, including speech recognition and analysis technologies that prepare you for everyday conversations. And Adaptive Recall® brings back material just when you need it to reinforce and perfect your learning.

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Some signs to look for:

No big smiles or other joyful expressions by 6 months. | No babbling by 12 months. | No words by 16 months.

To learn more of the signs of autism, visit autismspeaks.org

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Ethan Trex

is truly horrible at Ping-Pong. However, he managed to fight back his tears and repress his memories of whiffed serves to write about the table-tennis craze sweeping the nation for this issue's All-American cover story (page 40). When he's not struggling with activities that require hand-eye coordination, Ethan is working as a freelance writer in Chicago. His sports stories have appeared in *ESPN the Magazine*, CNNSI.com, Sports Pickle, and his family's holiday newsletter.

Haley Sweetland Edwards

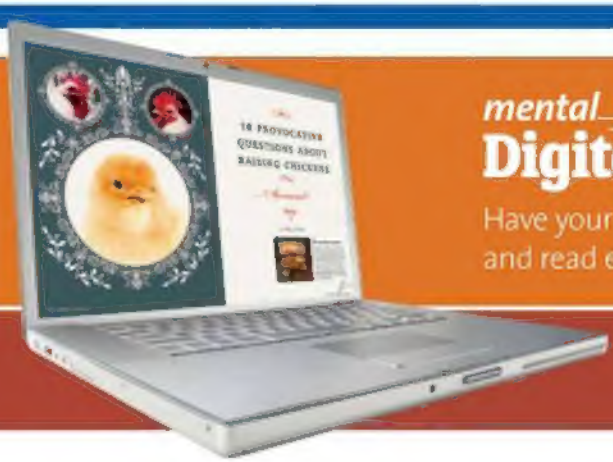
When Haley moved to Yemen at the end of last summer, she knew only that it was a very traditional country with some pretty profound problems, and that it was sandwiched between Saudi Arabia and Somalia. But with help from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the Overseas Press Club, Haley has spent the past nine months reporting from Yemen for the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Monthly*, and *New York Magazine*. During her time in "Happy Arabia"—a nickname the country earned during its more prosperous years—Haley and her reporting partner, Paul Stephens, have traveled to refugee camps along Yemen's northern border, visited the pristine beaches in south Yemen (where Somali refugees regularly land in skiffs), trekked to Osama bin Laden's father's house with an armed entourage of khat-chewing soldiers, gone swimming in the Gulf of Aden, and gone rock-climbing in the hills outside Sana'a. Haley is grateful to have learned that Yemen is not as scary as it looks on TV. Haley has degrees from Yale and Columbia. Her experiences and observations are detailed in this issue's Spinning the Globe, on page 56.

Elizabeth Lunday

has been writing about art, music, and literature for *mental_floss*' Masterpiece column since 2005. In this issue, she tackles Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain* (page 27), which required her to view more than her fair share of urinals and shock art. Elizabeth is also the author of two books, *Secret Lives of Great Artists* and *Secret Lives of Great Composers*, both from Quirk Books. She lives in Fort Worth, Texas, which—despite its anti-intellectual moniker, "Cowtown"—has a fantastic museum district.

Kelly K. Ferguson

has a long-standing obsession with children's authors. For her upcoming book, *My Life as Laura Ingalls Wilder*, Kelly retraced the author's pioneer journey through the rural Midwest. This, combined with her love for white pinafores, made Kelly uniquely qualified to write this issue's profile of L. Frank Baum (page 34), author of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Kelly headed west herself in 2006 to get her Ph.D. in creative writing from the University of Montana, but the siren song of the heartland lured her back to center. She currently teaches writing at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio.



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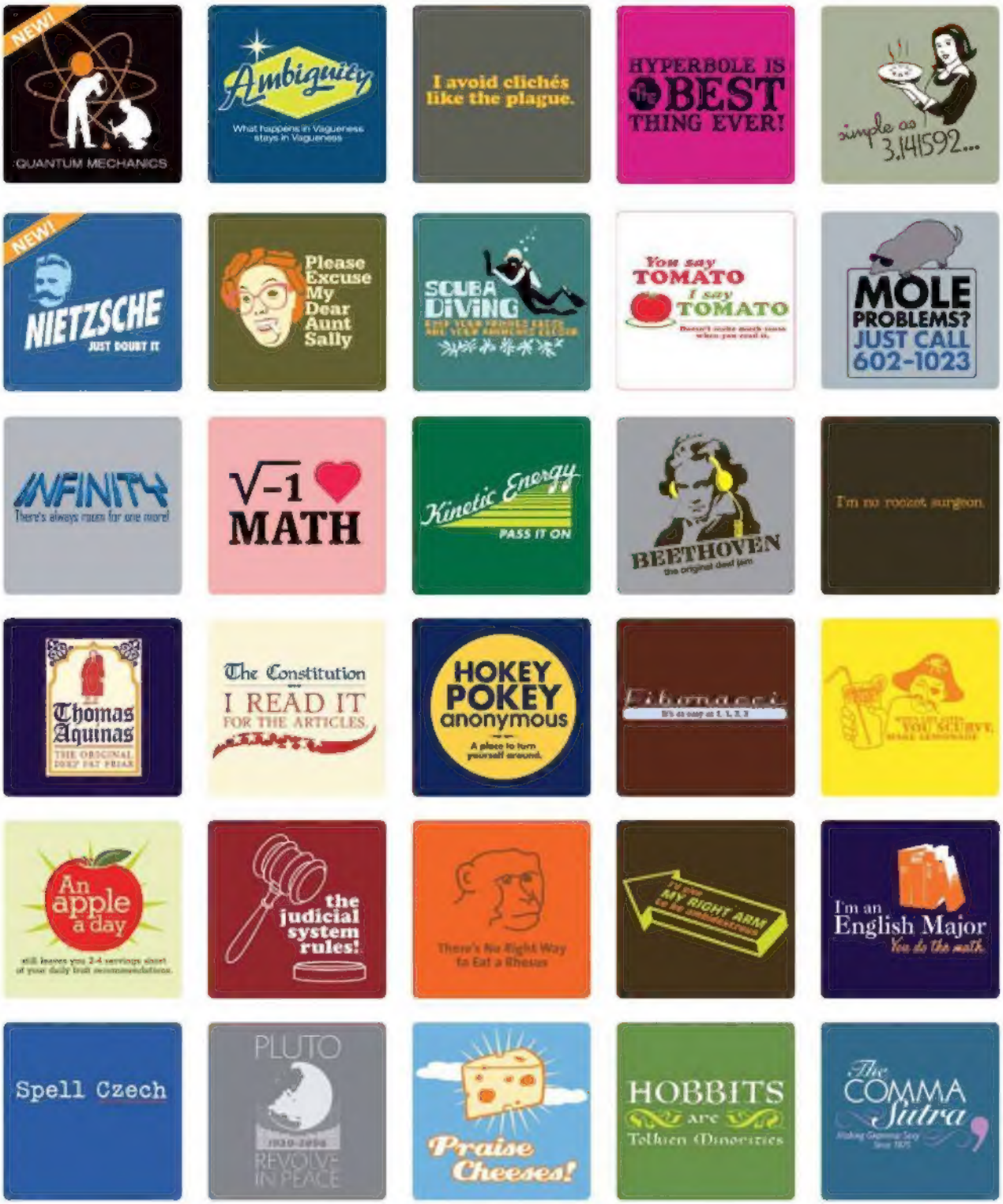

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MAIL BONDING

Numbers, Letters, and a Whole Heap of Trash

MATH APPEAL

This month, ***mental_floss*** is doling out a hearty round of applause for Alabama's Hoover High Math Team. Not only did the school finish 8th at the national Mu Alpha Theta Conference, but they also happen to be modeling our most popular math T-shirt. Of course, if any members of the other seven winning teams would like to commemorate their performance with a similar math-themed shirt, they're readily available at mentalfloss.com/store.

DIVE-BY LOOTING

I just had to let you know how we came across your great magazine ... dumpster diving! My husband and I were looking for current issues [of magazines] and we found yours. It was even better than we thought it might be. Very entertaining. Keep up the good work!

MICHELLE & RON TRUDEAU *OCALA F*

THE WORLD'S GREATEST TERM LETTER

Thank you for the copy of "10 Outsider Artists Worth Knowing." It's an eye-opener in many respects, and I congratulate you on what is quite an unusual and provocative range of examples. Many are known to me, such as the ineffable Moondog (whose music I found on an old record many years ago) and Grandma Moses (whose homestead I visited some years back). Banksy is quite well known in Britain these days, and Darger and Finster are now international names, but Daniel Johnston and Joey Skaggs are new to me. Madge Gill, of course, comes across as an absorbing mystery.

I should also congratulate you on your pithy style and on the well-chosen details, whereby each short piece packs its distinctive punch. Best wishes,

ROGER CARDINAL *KENT ENGLAND*

Editor's Note: *Why are we so giddy about this note? Roger Cardinal literally wrote the book on outsider art. The famed art critic coined the term in his 1972 book on the subject.*

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Ah, the Great American Road Trip!

After years of talking about it, the Flossers finally decided to pack up the ol' RV and set out on the open road. Careful planning was necessary, of course. A lengthy summit on travel snacks was convened, which included compelling arguments on Cheez-Its versus Twizzlers. And for the office dogs, it was critical to assemble a detailed timetable ensuring window-seat privileges for each. After that, all we had to do was figure out where we wanted to go!

And oh, what an adventure it's been. We uncovered foreign tongues in northern California, where one community has its own, entirely made-up language. In Minnesota, we encountered superhuman powers when we met 85-year-old table-tennis master Dorothy Peterson. Other things simply rendered us speechless, like the quiet beauty of watching an Amish baseball game.

The truth is, the RV never left the driveway. Once we started exploring what gives America its stars and stripes, we realized that it's not the sites, but the *stories* that deserve a salute. Sure, we never made it to Mt. Rushmore, but we learned about former lab apes being saved by the Chimpanzee Retirement Program! And we missed out on Yosemite, but we discovered the American dream realized by Oz creator, L. Frank Baum. From sea to shining sea, we've got the fascinating and untold stories that you won't find in any off-the-beaten-path guide. So put your gas money back in the piggy bank and join us as we pledge allegiance to the road trip not traveled! The journey starts on page 40.

Neely Harris
Editor-in-Chief

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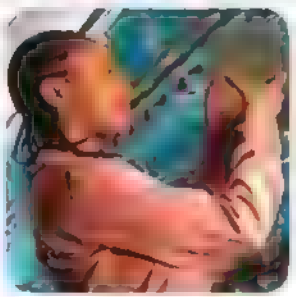

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CHEESE

THE QUOTABLE CHEESE SPREAD

Some very important people have said some highly unusual things about cheese. Here are just a few words to have on hand the next time dairy is brought up in conversation.

"A country producing almost 360 different types of cheese cannot die."
~ *Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister*

"A meal without cheese is like a beautiful woman with an eye missing."
~ *French politician Jean Anthelme Brillat Savarin*

"Cheese is milk's leap towards immortality."
~ *American author/radio personality Clifton Fadiman*

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Great Moments in Government Cheese

BY DAVID GOLDENBERG

JEFFERSON'S WHEEL OF FORTUNE

Back in 1801, the patriotic residents of Cheshire, Mass., decided to celebrate Thomas Jefferson's inauguration in the grandest way they could imagine—by creating a half-ton wheel of cheese. Made from the milk of every cow in town, the disc was 15 inches thick, 4 feet wide, and weighed in at 1,235 pounds! But constructing the enormous "Ultra-Democratic Cheese of Cheshire" was only the first obstacle; getting it to D.C. was the next. Over the course of a few months, the New England patriots rolled their wheel through towns along the way, as crowds gathered to gawk and cheer. When the big cheese finally arrived in Washington, Jefferson was delighted. He later claimed it was one of the happiest moments of his life.

THE PEOPLE'S WHEY

In 1835, New York farmer Thomas Meacham sent an even larger cheese wheel to the White House. The 1,400-pound block of cheddar was intended to be a gift for President Andrew Jackson, but Old Hickory had no idea what to do with it. After letting it ripen for two years, he decided to re-gift it to the American people. On February 22, 1837, he presented the cheese to the public, and within two hours, around 10,000 people had basically devoured the entire thing. The stench, however, is said to have lingered into the Van Buren administration.

When Little Miss Muffet sat on her tuffet eating her curds and whey she was actually enjoying some cottage cheese

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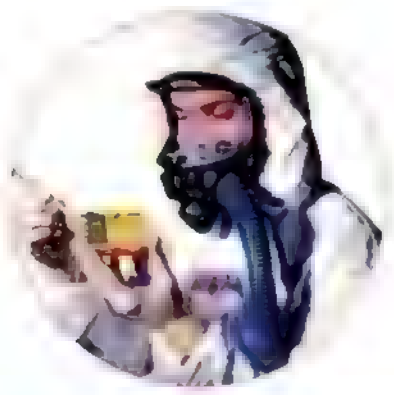
The Most Hazardous Cheese in the World

Although France boasts the stinkiest cheese in the world (the Vieux-Boulogne cheese, according to scientists), the honor of the most disgusting belongs to Italy. To make the Sardinian delicacy known as *Casu Marzu*, chefs drill a hole into sheep's milk cheese, then coax a special type of fly to lay thousands of eggs inside. As the maggots hatch, they release digestive enzymes that putrefy the middle of the block. The gooey result isn't just difficult to eat (the flavors are said to burn in your mouth), it's also difficult to buy. The cheese is illegal in Italy. Those brave enough to try the black-market dish are warned to cover their eyes and nostrils while indulging; the cheese maggots have a 6 inch vertical leap and can pounce with surprising precision!



Say "Prunes!"

When the first London photo studio opened in 1841, professional portraits were a serious affair. To help subjects look dignified, photographers told people to say "prunes" to make their mouths look smaller. But as decades passed, cameras got handier and more affordable, and by the 1930s, Kodak made it a goal to have one in every home. To do that, the company had to make photography fun. So, it began blanketing major magazines with ads of smiley, happy people.

The campaign worked. By the 1940s, most households had cameras, and toothy grins became the norm for snapshots. What's the best way to make people smile? Make them say a funny word that raises the corners of their mouths. In Korea, it's "kimchi." In Venezuela, it's "whiskey." And in America, it's "cheese."

Q: Is it possible to make cheese out of human milk?

A: Yes, but it's tricky. In 2001, modern artist Norma Jeane kicked off the trend when she commissioned a cheesemaker named Jonathan White to create breast-milk cheese. But what White soon discovered was that human milk contains none of the insoluble proteins found in animal milk, which gives curds their structure. After a few flops, he hit upon a creative solution. Mimicking a technique that Tuscan shepherds use to make ricotta, White found the perfect combination of heat and fermentation to set the mixture. He finally succeeded in producing two blocks of cheese for Norma Jeane, who displayed them in the Modern Museum of Art in 2001.

Moving from the museum into the mainstream hasn't been easy for the new cheese. In March 2010, New York chef Daniel Angerer made headlines when he successfully made cheese from his wife's breast milk. (He cheated by adding in a little cow milk to help it curdle properly.) And while plenty of foodies have been clamoring to try the stuff, several critics are confident the trend won't last. Food writer Gael Greene called Angerer's creation "bland" and "bouncy."

• How Wallace and Gromit Saved the Dairy Industry
• Why Swiss Cheese Has Holes in It
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Easy Cheese, Made Complicated

BY STACY CONRADT

A CHEESE BY ANY OTHER NAME ...

Easy Cheese sounds like a pretty obvious name for a cheddary product dispensed from a can, but it was originally known as Snack Mate. The idea was that hostesses would squeeze the cheese onto crackers and serve it up at swanky soirees. But in 1988, the name was abandoned because Nabisco (and its partner, Kraft) didn't want people to feel that the product was limited to appetizers. In 1999, Easy Cheese made *Time* magazine's list of the 100 Worst Ideas of the Century, where it joined the likes of asbestos, the *Titanic*, and George Lazenby as James Bond.

NOBODY LIKES TO BE LABELED

If you read the ingredients on the back of an Easy Cheese can, you will not find cheese on the list.

In truth, the Food and Drug Administration does not allow Nabisco to refer to Easy Cheese as "cheese" because of the processing and additives. Instead, Nabisco must call it a "cheese snack."

THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE SQUEEZE

So, how does Easy Cheese work? The upper half of the can is filled with cheese, and the bottom half is filled with compressed nitrogen gas. When you push on the valve at the top, the pressure forces nitrogen up the can, which presses against a piston and squeezes out the cheese. To ensure that the nitrogen doesn't mix with the cheese, the gas travels back down the can through a tube and exits the can through a little hole in the bottom. The system even works underwater! In fact, scuba divers love Easy Cheese. Squirting a few puffs of the whey-based snack underwater is any easy way to attract fish.

WHY YOU SHOULD KEEP EASY CHEESE IN YOUR BOMB SHELTER

Easy Cheese cannot go bad. To keep the can from taking up valuable space in the fridge, Nabisco asked the American Can Company to specifically design a can that would remain hermetically sealed, even after it had been used several times. In fact, cooling the can may actually stop the flow of cheese.

THE FLAVOR OF LOVE

When Easy Cheese (then Snack Mate) first appeared on the market in 1966, the four original flavors were American, Cheddar, Swiss, and Pimiento. Before long, Nabisco expanded its line to include Cheddar Blue Cheese and Shrimp Cocktail, among others. These days, the company prefers to keep it simple. It has scaled back to four flavors: American, Cheddar, Sharp Cheddar, and Cheddar 'n Bacon.

In the 17th and 18th centuries, Edam cheese balls were used as cannonballs and fired off ships in the Caribbean Sea

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BEST OF THE BLOG

WHO MOVED MY CHEESE?

3 Moguls Who Survived Bankruptcy

BY ETHAN TREX

1 HENRY FORD'S BUMPY ROAD

Henry Ford probably wouldn't be too judgmental about his company's recent financial troubles. Particularly because he was no stranger to debt himself. When Ford first started the Detroit Automobile Company in 1899, the young engineer was a little too obsessed with perfection. In two years, the plant produced just 20 cars. The poor output, combined with exorbitant costs, wasn't a recipe for success. By 1901, his enterprise had gone bankrupt. Not one to wallow in self-pity, Ford reorganized his talent under a new name, the Henry Ford Company, but soon left to start yet another group—the Ford Motor Company. And that's where he finally started to make the real money.

What ever happened to the Henry Ford Company? It did all right for itself. The group changed its name to the Cadillac Automobile Company.

2 HERSHEY'S BITTER-TO-SWEET SUCCESS

Milton Hershey knew he could make great candy, but running a great business was more daunting. Hershey, who didn't have a formal education, spent four years apprenticing in a Philadelphia candy shop before striking out on his own in 1876. Six years later, his business went under. This wasn't the first time Hershey would go broke. A subsequent attempt to peddle sweets in New York City met the same fate, and the penniless Hershey returned home to Lancaster, Penn. There, he started tinkering with the use of fresh milk in caramel production. And out of nowhere, sweet success! In 1900, Hershey sold his Lancaster Caramel Company for an eye-popping $1 million. But the restless entrepreneur wasn't done yet. He immediately began work on a new idea—manufacturing a Swiss luxury import known as "milk chocolate."

3 THE BURT REYNOLDS BACHELOR PAD

Back in the 1970s, Burt Reynolds owned mansions on both coasts, a helicopter, and a lavish ranch. But the next decade was harder on the Hollywood star. Thanks to a pricey divorce and some poor career choices, Reynolds ended up owing creditors almost $10 million. In 1996, he filed for Chapter 11.

But instead of hawking his valuables and putting his trademark mustache up for auction, Reynolds found a loophole to protect his wealth. In states such as Florida and Texas, there's a homestead exemption that protects debtors from losing their primary residence. The problem was, Burt Reynolds' shelter happened to be a sprawling $2.5 million Florida mansion. The issue caused such a stink that when Congress passed measures tightening the loopholes in 2001, Reynolds was one of the examples Senators used to show that bankruptcy rules went too easy on the wealthy.

FROM THE FAST LANE TO THE BOWLING LANE

Henry Ford wasn't the only auto magnate to go bust. General Motors founder William Crapo Durant had even worse luck. During the Great Depression, Durant took a massive gamble on the stock market and saw his fortune fall from $120 million to total bankruptcy. Things got so bad that the former captain of industry spent his last years running a bowling alley in Flint, Mich.

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AMERICAN CHEESE

A Timeline of Tackiness

Forget France; the finest cheese is made right here in the USA

BY COLE CAMBLE

THE CB RADIO CRAZE

Before Twitter and Facebook, the CB radio was the time-wasting social networking device of choice. Originally popular with truckers, Citizens Band Radios became a mainstream hit in the 1970s after a nationwide 55 mph speed limit went into effect. Regular citizens took to the airwaves to warn others of speed traps and to complain about traffic. Before long, the trend was name-checked in music, with the No. 1 hit "Convoy," and depicted on the big screen with 1977's *Breaker Breaker!* starring Chuck Norris as a Zen trucker and martial artist.

But, like many social-networking devices, CB radios became too popular for their own good. As communications devolved into gossip, profanity, and gripe-fests, the sheer volume of chatter drove away loyal users. Today, the soul of CB radio lives on wherever you see a teenager texting while driving.

BLACK LIGHTS

Children of the 1970s spent countless hours in their bedrooms, basking in the glow of their black lights and staring at the Grateful Dead posters above their beds. It was less risky than following the band around the country, right? Maybe not. Turns out that all those years of black light exposure could have caused premature aging. Although UV light radiating from black lights is much less powerful than sunlight, it does have the potential to damage skin and cause wrinkles. Perhaps leaving your room was the safer choice, after all.

SWATCH WATCHES

In the 1980s, American teens went nuts for a must-have Swiss accessory: the Swatch watch. Cheap and colorful, Swatches were often designed by famous artists, and by 1988, 50 million of them had been sold around the globe. But Swatch's world domination didn't stop with the funky fashion statements. In the late 1990s, the company took a giant leap into the auto industry with its design for an ultra-compact car called the "Swatchmobile." Shaped like an Easter egg, the two-seater fit into tiny parking spaces, which boosted its popularity in Europe. Today you know the Swatchmobile by another name, the Smart Car. And while Swatch is no longer involved with vehicles, the name still reflects the work of its original collaborators, Smart is short for Swatch Mercedes Art.

Swatch didn't stop with funky fashion accessories. In the late 1990s, the company took a giant leap into the auto industry.

English speakers say "cheese" when smiling for a photo, but

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ALF

Viewers may have delighted in the antics of this cat-eating alien, but working on the television show was an utter nightmare for the cast. The set of *ALF* was rigged with more than a dozen trap doors, each deep enough to house an adult puppeteer. Productions constantly ran late because the exhausted actors kept forgetting to make eye contact with the puppet. Why so distracted? They were too busy looking down, trying not to break their necks!

THIGHMASTER

Suzanne Somers may have sold us on this squeezable exercise machine, but the real mastermind behind the Thighmaster was Joshua Reynolds, heir to the R.J. Reynolds tobacco fortune. Reynolds discovered the V-shaped device after meeting its inventor, Swedish chiropractor Anne-Marie Bennstrom, in a California spa. The entrepreneur tweaked the invention, rebranded it the Thighmaster, and enlisted actress Suzanne Somers. All of this seems oddly appropriate, considering that the Thighmaster is one of the few exercise machines you can use while smoking.

CABBAGE PATCH KIDS

During the Christmas season of 1983, Coleco couldn't make Cabbage Patch dolls fast enough. In toy stores, grown men and women wrestled, stampeded, and punched each other to purchase the ugly-cute presents for their kids. But in the process of driving parents crazy, Cabbage Patch Kids also gave rise to some crazy urban legends. One widespread rumor had it that the dolls were designed so that, in the event of nuclear war, the public would already be accustomed to the appearance of mutated babies.

But there was one rumor that turned out to be true: If you send a damaged Cabbage Patch Kid to "bath camp," the doll will come back repaired. At the Babyland General Hospital in Cleveland, Ga., experts will clean and perform surgery on the original hand-stitched dolls, for a fee. According to the company's creepy pricing chart, a leg reattachment can cost you up to $30, while a belly button repair will set you back $750.

THE FANNY PACK

For years, fanny packs were an essential part of the tourist uniform, housing passports, snacks, and cameras for middle-aged vacationers. But in the 1990s, thieves started using the hip packs for a very different purpose: to conceal weapons. Strangely, fanny pack makers began catering to this new market. BlackHawk Industries, for instance, made "tactical" fanny packs, promising "silent zipper pulls for a lightning-fast draw." These models also contained internal cooling systems—ideal for keeping an icy beverage cold, or for preventing that smoking gun you just fired from burning your leg.

"WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?"

In the early aughts, everyone wanted to know who let the dogs out. These days, people are more curious about who let the *song* out, so they can find that individual and punch him in the face.

Well, sports fans, get ready to take aim at Alex Rodriguez. The director of promotions for the Seattle Mariners first played the Baha Men song at a Major League game as a joke on backup catcher Joe Oliver. A-Rod was there, and unfortunately, he liked the tune. Rodriguez requested that stadium officials play the song as his batter introduction music, and soon, ballparks around the nation were blaring "Who Let the Dogs Out?" over their loudspeakers.

In Chinese, it's "eggplant" and in Spanish, it's "potato."

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HOLIER THAN SWISS CHEESE

Around the World in Religious Traditions

BY CHELLIS YING

VIAGRA FOR YOUR AFTERLIFE

Packing for the hereafter just got easier. According to a Chinese tradition, when a person dies, mourners should burn paper replicas of household items so that the deceased can enjoy them in the afterlife. The hope is that if the dead are appeased with burnt offerings, their ghosts will refrain from haunting the living. But like many traditions, this one has evolved to reflect the times. Today, it's not uncommon to see mourners burning paper replicas of cars, laptops, credit cards, iPods, Louis Vuitton handbags, or even bottles of Viagra!

SPINNING INTO CONTROL

For members of the Sufi Mawlawi order, pondering the nature of life can literally make your head spin. As a part of their Sema ceremony, these "Whirling" Dervishes meditate by twirling in circles, in an act that's meant to bring them closer to Allah. But don't mistake the spinning for carefree fun. In order to perform the centuries-old ritual, each dancer must undergo 1,001 days of training in seclusion during which they study music, poetry, and Sufi prayers. The clothing is also distinct; participants wear wide, white gowns that flare out like poodle skirts, and they can twirl in ecstasy for hours.

Rather than pacing around the maternity ward, expectant fathers in northern England would traditionally nibble on a big wheel of "groaning cheese."

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Holy Smoke

Every year during the Feast of St. Joseph, the Gothic town of Valencia, Spain, lights up with bonfires and fills with billows of smoke. It's all part of Las Fallas, a five-day festival in March that ends with revelers setting fire to hundreds of enormous papier-mâché sculptures. The elaborate *falla* figures can be more than 50 feet tall and can cost as much as $75,000 to build. But the people don't mind charring the fruits of all that labor. Many of the sculptures depict unpopular politicians and celebrities, and burning them is a sort of public catharsis.

THE WINDOW TREATMENT

The people of Solapur, India, drop babies like they're hot. Every year for the past 500 years, a priest has stood on the top of a shrine and dropped infants—hundreds of them—onto a white sheet 50 feet below. Friends and family members hold onto the blanket with the hope that the ritual will bring their children luck and good health. The babies are all under age 2, and according to event organizers, not one has ever been hurt. Perhaps more amazing is the fact that the tradition crosses religious lines; Muslims and Hindus alike participate in the ceremony.

BUILT LIKE A BRICK CHURCH-HOUSE

On the Greek island of Chios, two rival Orthodox churches in the small town of Vrontados celebrate Easter Sunday by lighting up the sky with fireworks and bombarding each other's church bells with colorful rockets.

The islanders, who find beauty in the vibrant warfare, prepare for the event by boarding up church windows and covering the cathedrals in protective wire mesh. Then, on Easter night, congregants pack into their respective churches to attend Mass—which is usually rendered inaudible by the sound of fireworks. But when the church bells strike at midnight, the friendly fire halts. Keeping the tradition alive means that the people of Vrontados occasionally risk injury to wayward firecrackers. Still, locals are proud of the tourist-attracting tradition and are hesitant to curb the festivities.

COCONUT BLISS

Being hardheaded isn't often a compliment, but it might be a prerequisite for religious devotion in southern India. Once a year, priests at the Veerapathiran Samy temple, located in the state of Tamil Nadu, break open thousands of coconuts by smashing them on devotees' heads. Participants (who are required to be 18 or older) willingly offer their skulls as a way to thank the Hindu goddess Lakshmi for their good fortunes. The ceremony isn't always successful, though. Those who get injured by the hard-shelled fruit are often told that the gods are punishing them for failing to be devout enough. Still, priests claim that the injuries are few and far between, and the ceremony draws thousands of head-strong participants every year.

FREE FALLIN'

Anyone who's ever strapped a rope to their ankle and jumped off a bridge owes a debt to the people of Pentecost Island, the birthplace of bungee jumping. Between April and June, young men tie vines to their ankles and dive headfirst off a 75-foot tower, as crowds dance and sing below. And while the strength of the tether is vital to this South Pacific coming-of-age ceremony, it's the length that's more important. The vines are carefully measured so that the young men's heads graze the ground—an act that supposedly blesses the soil for the upcoming yam season. But the system isn't perfect, and casualties abound. In fact, it's traditional for divers to relay their affections to loved ones the day before they jump.

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MAC 'N CHEESE

3 Cooking Techniques Worthy of MacGyver

On TV, MacGyver used everyday objects to get out of desperate situations. This is how he'd cheat hunger in the starkest of kitchens.

BY TIM FARRELL

ROASTED SWEET POTATOES A LA RADIATOR

In America, eating in your car is a national pastime. But cooking with your car? As strange as it sounds, there is a cult of car cooks across the country, all devoted to heating up grub with internal combustion engines. The trick to car cooking is finding a secure spot on the engine block that's located away from the moving parts. In older American cars, the radiator is a solid bet.

Cooking time is a trial-and-error process, as each car heats up differently. So, for this recipe, we chose a hearty root vegetable that's difficult to overcook.

- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. chopped garlic
- ½ tsp. dried rosemary
- salt and pepper
- aluminum foil
- 1 car

Combine the potatoes, garlic, and spices in a bowl. Cover the mixture with oil, then wrap it in heavy-duty aluminum foil, making sure no oil escapes. Place the foil wrap on the engine and drive. After 50 miles, pull over and turn the engine off. Wait 5 minutes, then remove the food with tongs to check the roasting status. The dish is ready when potatoes are soft to the touch.

In 1898, the cheese industry petitioned the British government to censor a film about cheese mites living in a piece of Stilton.

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THE WORLD'S FLATTEST ENGLISH MUFFINS

British comedian George Egg spent the past decade touring the world, staying in motel after motel. Sick of lousy Continental breakfasts, Egg mastered the art of creating home-cooked meals using motel appliances. Here's his hotel hack for English muffins.

- 1 box English muffin mix
- warm water
- a few tablespoons flour
- mixing bowl
- lamp
- 1 Bible
- washcloth
- non-stick cooking spray
- clothing iron

Knead the dough (preferably on the flat surface of a large motel vanity). Add flour as needed to prevent the dough from sticking. Shape the dough into a ball and place it in a mixing bowl. Cover bowl with dry washcloth. Place a Bible on its edge and open it so that it will stand on its own. Take the shade off the hotel lamp, then rest the bowl on top of the Bible as close to the lamp's bulb as possible. Let it sit for 90 minutes, or until the dough rises.

Once the dough has risen, pull off a small portion. Roll it in your hands and flatten it into a hockey puck shape. Coat the clothing iron with cooking spray, and turn it to its highest temperature (usually "cotton"). Once iron is sufficiently hot, place the dough on the metal surface. Flip the muffin occasionally until the crust browns. Enjoy!

DISHWASHER FISH

A clean dishwasher, sans detergent, is nothing more than a churning cauldron of piping hot water, perfect for steam-poaching seafood. Bob Blumer, a.k.a. The Surreal Gourmet, has perfected and popularized this unusual technique for cooking fish. Salmon is recommended for beginners, but if you're feeling bold, go for the halibut.

- 1 salmon fillet
- 1 tbsp. olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- aluminum foil

Coat the fillet with olive oil and season it with salt and pepper. Place the fish on a 12-inch square of foil and drizzle with lemon juice. Wrap the fish in the foil, pinching the ends and folding them to make sure the foil is airtight. Place the fish on the top rack of an empty dishwasher. Run dishwasher on the "normal" cycle. When it stops, the fish is ready.

That Other Mac 'n Cheese

BY ALLISON KEENE

➤ America's obsession with mac 'n cheese goes all the way back to Thomas Jefferson. Upon sampling the dish in Paris, the founding father became so obsessed with the gooey delight that he toured factories and restaurants to learn how it was made. But when he couldn't re-create the meal to perfection, he did the next best thing: he ordered take-out. According to historians, Jefferson had fresh pasta and Parmesan shipped to his house in Monticello all the way from Marseilles.

➤ War, what is it good for? Processed cheese! In 1916, J.L. Kraft obtained a patent for a powdered cheese that wouldn't spoil, but what he discovered was that it wouldn't sell either. Desperate, Kraft hawked 6 million pounds of the stuff to the U.S. Army at a steep discount. The powdered cheese didn't find its footing until World War II, when Kraft incorporated it into a new, affordable meal: Instant Macaroni and Cheese.

➤ In 1993, Crayola added the color "Macaroni and Cheese" to its 96-box of crayons. Also added that year? Asparagus, Timber Wolf and Razzmatazz.

➤ While most companies would jump at the chance to build a sports stadium, the Kraft corporation is eager to tear one down. In honor of its new "Cheddar Explosion" Macaroni and Cheese, Kraft is sponsoring the 2010 demolishment of Texas Stadium, the former home of the Dallas Cowboys. How does the company plan to highlight the true explosiveness of those Cheddar Explosions? One lucky kid gets to press the detonator button.

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BY JASON ENGLISH

Part I

The Commencement Address Final Exam

Before you can have your diploma, you'll need to determine who said each quote.

1

2

3

4

Part II

After-School Special or Facebook Group?

1 My Dad Lives in a Downtown Hote

a. Aft

b. Fa

2 Sometimes I Don't Love My Mother

a. After School Sp

b. Facebook Grou

3 I Can't Believe I Have Braces In Colle e

4 Mary Was an Unmarried Teenage Mother, Too

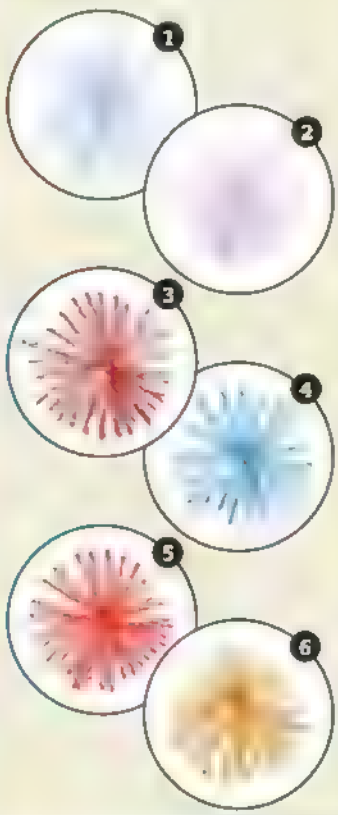
5 I Cheated at "Book It!" to Get Free Pizza

Part III

The Color Test

My 1 year-old daughter and I picked up a box of 64 Crayola crayons and put together this quiz, which tests the people who name crayons as much as it will test you. Can you match the name to the color?

a. Chestnut
b. Bittersweet
c. Wisteria
d. Cerulean
e. Cornflower
f. Raw Sienna



PART I: 1) b (Steve Jobs at Stanford in 2005) 2) b (David Foster Wallace at Kenyon College in 2005) 3) b (It wasn't Vonnegut. And it wasn't even a commencement address. The remarks, which Vonnegut supposedly gave at M.I.T. graduation in 1997, were widely circulated online. The speech was actually a column written by Mary Schmich.) 4) a (Jon Stewart at Wesleyan & Mary in 2004)

PART II: 1) a (After-school special.) 2) a (After-school special.) 3) b (Facebook group) 4) a (Facebook group) 5) b (Facebook group. But I'd watch that movie.)

PART III: 1) e – Cornflower 2) c – Wisteria 3) a – Chestnut 4) d – Cerulean 5) b – Bittersweet 6) f – Raw Sienna

Need some trivia to wash down your PB&J?
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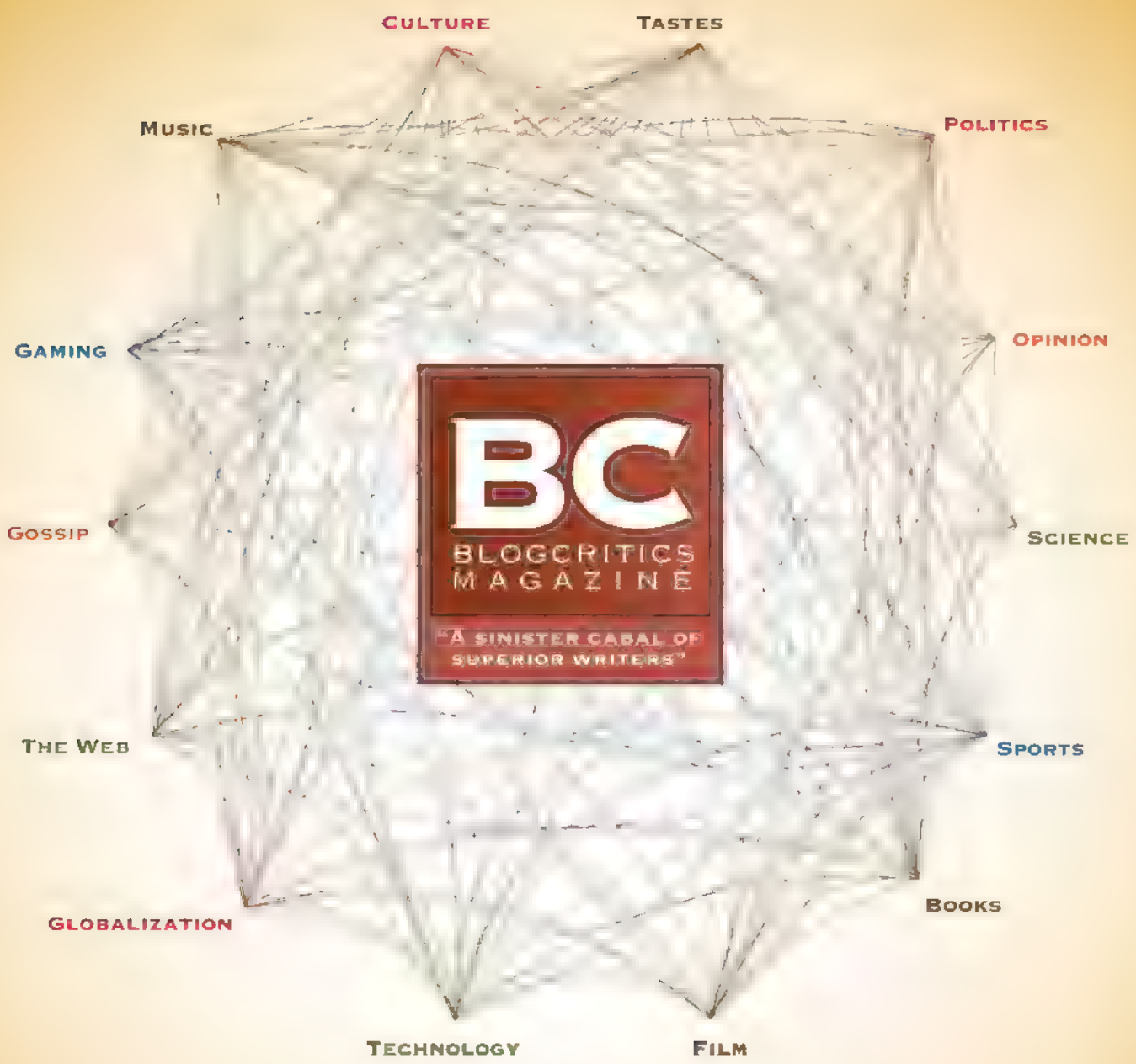

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NO. 85

Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain*

It's okay if you're baffled by it; Marcel Duchamp's *Fountain* has been vexing people for nearly 100 years. But his urinal is one of the most influential masterpieces of the 20th century. It launched an entirely new approach to art—one in which ideas could be more important than images, and shock value could be more important than beauty.

BY ELIZABETH LUNDAY

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RIGHT BRAIN
(1) masterpieces

HOW TO SHOCK FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE

Marcel Duchamp established himself as an artistic bad boy at the tender age of 24. Back then, in the early 1900s, there were two major aesthetic schools in France. The first was the traditional approach of the French art academies, which taught classical composition and perspective. Then there was Cubism, which taught the exact opposite. Instead of reconstructing the three-dimensional world on canvas, Cubists deconstructed it, breaking down the universe into its component parts.

Duchamp managed to offend both groups with his ▼ *Nude Descending a Staircase, No. 2*, a painting he first submitted to a Cubist art show in 1912. It depicts a naked female form walking down a flight of stairs in stages, like a stop-motion photograph. Traditionalists despised it, shocked that a nude woman would be pictured wandering around the house. Meanwhile, Cubists took offense to the painting's sense of motion. In fact, the work was rejected from the famed *Du Cubisme* portfolio on the grounds that "a nude never descends stairs—a nude reclines."

Duchamp finally managed to have *Nude Descending a Staircase* included in a large exhibition known as the Armory Show, which toured the United States in 1913. Along with introducing American audiences to Cézanne, Matisse, and Picasso, the Armory Show made Duchamp a celebrity—albeit one that the press openly panned.

A few years later, fleeing the front lines of World War I, Marcel Duchamp moved from France to the United States, ready to shock the world again. He got his chance in 1917, when the Society of Independent Artists announced an exhibition under the motto "No Jury. No Prizes. Hung in Alphabetical Order." Artists simply needed to pay the entrance fee to be exhibited. Duchamp decided to create one of his "ready-mades"—household objects that he transformed into art. For his entry to the exhibition, Duchamp bought a porcelain urinal, hung it upside down, and signed it "R. Mutt" to conceal his identity. Duchamp called the piece *Fountain*.

He had the work secretly taken out of storage, and on the opening night of the exhibition, Duchamp wandered around the gallery with the urinal tucked under his arm.

The exhibit organizers were horrified. A urinal wasn't art, they declared; it was a plumbing fixture. But Duchamp and a few of his friends pointed out that, because Mr. Mutt had paid the entrance fee, the urinal had to be displayed. George Bellows, one of the managers of the event, was outraged: "You mean to say, if a man sent in horse manure glued to a canvas, we would have to accept it?" Duchamp's answer was yes.

In the end, Bellows prevailed, and the Society of Independent Artists refused to showcase the urinal. But scandals are difficult to keep secret in the art world. Duchamp and his cronies had the work secretly taken out of storage, and on the opening night of the exhibition, Duchamp wandered around the gallery with the *Fountain* tucked under his arm. Soon people on both sides of the Atlantic were buzzing about the rebellion. The definition of art would never be the same again.

WHO'S YOUR DADA?

Duchamp wasn't the first artist who set out to shock audiences with his creations. It's difficult to say who best deserves that honor, although Impressionist Édouard Manet would certainly be a contender. In 1865, Manet caused a ruckus with his painting *Olympia*, which featured a stark-naked prostitute. Even though nudes cluttered the galleries of the day, the artistic establishment was horrified. A nude, they argued, is fine art; a naked hooker is pornography.

But at least *Olympia* was an oil painting. Duchamp's *Fountain* marked the beginning of the idea that anything and everything could be made into art. It spearheaded two major art movements of the early 20th century, Dadaism and Surrealism, which both set out to make audiences laugh (and cry) about the cosmic weirdness of life. Man Ray's *Gift* of 1921, for example, is a clothing iron with a row of spikes protruding from the bottom. It's a strange creation, yet somehow familiar—a blunt reminder that domesticity has a sinister side. Similarly, René Magritte's *The Treachery of Images* (1929) is playfully unsettling. The painting features a pipe with the words "This is not a pipe" written underneath it. It reminds viewers of something they've known all along: A painting is no substitute for the real thing.

Duchamp and his *Fountain* also inspired the Pop art movement of the 1960s. Like Duchamp, Pop artists took everyday objects and made people look at them in new ways. But while Duchamp sought primarily to shock, Pop artists wanted to emphasize the kitschy nature of American consumerism. Andy Warhol silk-screened Campbell's soup cans repeatedly onto giant canvases, and Roy Lichtenstein enlarged tiny comic strip panels into enormous paintings. Both artists brought to light the grandness, and grotesqueness, of our mass-produced culture.

THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

If a urinal is art, and a soup can is art, then art can be whatever its creator wants it to be. Which is why, today, artists continue to push the boundaries of materials and subject matter, often in startling ways. In 1991, Damien Hirst shocked critics when he

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displayed a dead shark in a tank of formaldehyde and called it *The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living*. And in 1996, a similar scandal erupted when the Brooklyn Museum of Art exhibited Chris Ofili's depiction of the Virgin Mary surrounded by elephant dung. But overall, critics accepted the work of both artists. It was as if George Bellows was asking whether horse manure on canvas was art all over again, except now, the answer could only be "yes."

What to make of all this? With *Fountain*, Duchamp claimed that his goal was to change how people perceived commonplace objects. Writing as R. Mutt in 1917, Duchamp described his own work by saying, "He took an ordinary article of life, placed it so that its useful significance disappeared under the new title and point of view—he created a new thought for that object." Ultimately, *Fountain*'s legacy doesn't lie in photographs and replicas, but rather in the vibrant new thoughts created in its wake.

MARCEL DUCHAMP

Chess Master

Marcel Duchamp continued to create new projects after *Fountain*, but in the 1920s, the artist began spending more time at the chessboard than the studio. He achieved the status of chess master in 1925 and even played on the French team at the International Chess Olympiads that year. Chess often got in the way of Duchamp's love life though. Soon after he was married to his first wife, his frustrated bride reportedly glued his chess pieces to the board and returned home to her family. His second marriage to Alexina "Teeny" Satter, was happier, in part because she tolerated Duchamp's obsession with chess. The two were together for 15 years, until he died of a sudden heart attack in 1963.

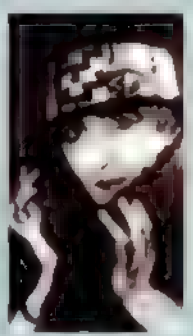
The Art of the Matter

CURVES AND LINES

Many critics have claimed to see beauty in the shape of *Fountain*, comparing its silhouette to that of Buddha or the Madonna. But Duchamp wasn't concerned with beauty; his interests were "anti-aesthetic."

INSIDE, OUTSIDE, UPSIDE DOWN

Duchamp displayed his urinal upside down, and no one knows why. But that hasn't stopped critics from speculating. One popular theory has to do with gender. A urinal is a traditionally masculine object, but once it's turned upside down, it takes on a feminine, almost vaginal, form. Duchamp was into gender-bending. In the 1920s, he created a female alter ego named Rrose Selavy. He even signed some of his artwork with her name and dressed in drag to model for her photographer Man Ray.



WHAT'S IN A NAME

When audiences in 1917 saw the name "R. Mutt," they immediately thought of Augustus Mutt, a character from the hugely popular comic strip "Mutt and Jeff." That was Duchamp's intention. He liked the dimwitted Mutt, and he thought that name sounded better than his first idea, Mott, the company from which he bought the urinal.

A PICTURE TELLS 1,000 WORDS

Duchamp wanted *Fountain* to have an enduring legacy, so he had his friend and fellow avant-garde artist, Alfred Stieglitz, photograph the urinal. Stieglitz's photograph made *Fountain* even more famous, particularly after the urinal disappeared a few months after it was exhibited in 1917. (Some art historians conjecture Stieglitz threw it away.) As interest in *Fountain* grew over the years, Duchamp created several replicas, though none were exactly the same size or shape as the original.

MORE art at mentalfloss.com/more:
• The Crusader of the Painting: Iceland's Einar Hakonarson
• The Father of Modern Indian Art

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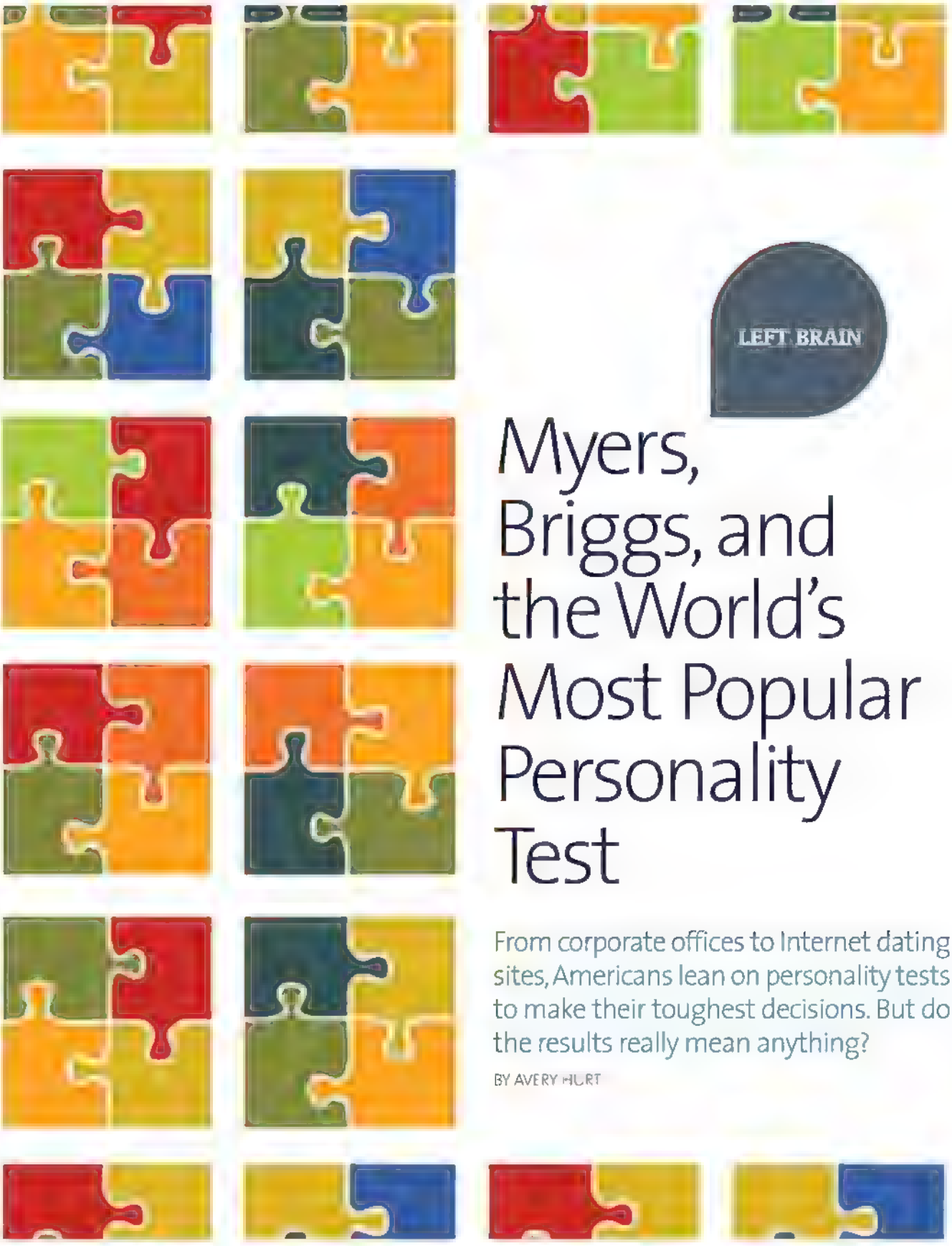

LEFT BRAIN

Myers, Briggs, and the World's Most Popular Personality Test

From corporate offices to Internet dating sites, Americans lean on personality tests to make their toughest decisions. But do the results really mean anything?

BY AVERY HURT

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Have you ever been told that you're an extrovert? An introvert? Those terms come from the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator Test. Psychologists, therapists, personnel directors, guidance counselors, and dating services all use variations of the Myers-Briggs Test.

Big-name companies rely on it, as well. Wachovia Bank, Hewlett-Packard, AstraZeneca pharmaceuticals, and the U.S. Department of Defense all license the personality exam for in-house use. And those quizzes on Facebook—Which type of vampire are you? What color is your personality?—also owe a debt to the legendary exam.

But how exactly did one personality test come to dominate the American cultural landscape? And why do so many psychologists and psychiatrists question the test's validity? Both answers may lie in the fact that Isabel Myers and Katharine Briggs weren't trained scientists.

THIS IS JUST A TEST

The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator goes back to a mother-daughter team working together in the first half of the 20th century. Neither one had any formal training in psychology. Katharine Cook Briggs, a housewife from Michigan, was married to a physicist; her daughter, Isabel Briggs Myers, had a bachelor's degree in political science from Swarthmore College. But the two became interested in personality theory in 1923, after reading a book by Swiss psychiatrist Carl Jung. In Jung's book, *Psychological Types*, he categorized personalities based on the way people engage in and understand the world. At the time, it was a novel approach to psychology—one that focused not on treating the mentally ill, but rather on guiding ordinary people along a path of self-discovery.

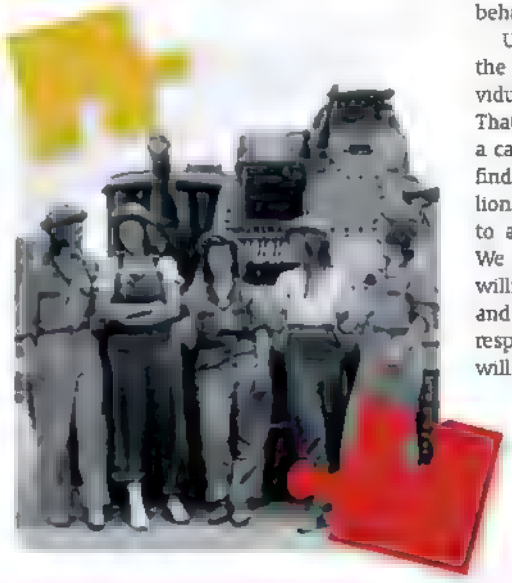
Using a simplified version of Jung's ideas, Briggs and Myers developed a questionnaire and scoring system. This wasn't the first personality test to categorize people by type; Harvard psychologist William Marston (father of the polygraph test) had developed a similar system in the mid-1920s. But Myers and Briggs' version was more detailed.

More importantly, their timing was perfect. Myers and Briggs introduced their system in 1942, just as women were moving into the workforce and filling the job vacancies created by World War II. Specialists in the emerging field of industrial psychology welcomed the Myers-Briggs Test as a way to help sort through the influx of women and steer them toward the jobs that best suited them. Society was quickly redefining itself, and the Myers-Briggs Test was helping to give it shape.

CHARACTERS WANTED

The standard Myers-Briggs Type Indicator poses 94 questions specifically designed to classify an individual as one of 16 personality types. Each "type" is a combination of four traits that describes how an individual relates to the world. A person can be introverted or extroverted; intuitive or sensing; feeling or thinking; and perceiving or judging. Career counselors typically use these results to guide clients towards jobs that feel like a personality fit and are likely to be satisfying in the long run. For instance, people who are categorized as introverted, intuitive, feeling, and perceiving are often gentle and empathetic. They tend to make insightful writers and therapists. On the other end of the Myers-Briggs spectrum, the extroverted, sensing, thinking, and judging types tend to be responsible and organized managers. They're pegged as effective teachers and judges.

Part of what's made the test so popular with the general public is that it's impossible to fail. While other psychological tests were designed to diagnose mental illness (or at least screen for it), the Myers-Briggs Test assumes that all 16 types represent shades of normal. Everyone who takes the test will classify as one of the types, and all of the types have a place in society.



Part of what's made the test so popular is that it's impossible to fail. Of course, that's also why many experts place it only a step or two above astrology.

Of course, this aspect of the test is also one of the reasons why many experts doubt its usefulness, placing it only a step or two above astrology. They argue that the results aren't falsifiable, meaning that any of the 16 types could fit any person, given the right interpretational spin. As psychologist David J. Pittenger wrote in 1993, "The descriptions of each type are generally flattering and sufficiently vague so that most people will accept the statements as true of themselves."

Another reason why experts question the scientific credibility of Myers-Briggs is that the answers are entirely self-reported. Analysts can spend hours interpreting the results, but in the end, the test depends on whether test-takers can honestly and accurately answer questions about their own behaviors and preferences.

Ultimately, many psychologists feel that the Myers-Briggs Test can reveal how individuals see themselves, but not much more. That information can prove useful if you're a career counselor trying to help someone find the right job. But is it worth the millions of dollars people spend each year to administer the test? It's tough to say. We live in a culture where people seem willing to spend endless amounts of time and money to find themselves, and in that respect, it doesn't look like Myers-Briggs will be disappearing anytime soon.

See the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator in action. →

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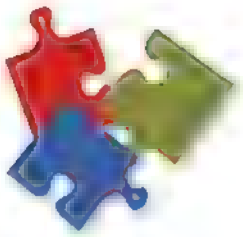
LEFT BRAIN

The Sweet Sixteen

Here's a quick rundown of the 16 Myers-Briggs personality types, and 48 celebs who fit the bill.



THE SUPERVISOR

Extroverted
Sensing
Thinking
Judging

Colin Powell
Joseph Stalin
Queen Elizabeth I

[illegible]

Introverted
Sensing
Thinking
Judging

Darth Vader
Condoleezza Rice
Queen Elizabeth II

THE PROVIDER

Extroverted
Sensing
Feeling
Judging

George Washington
Bill Clinton
Monica from *Friends*

THE PROTECTOR

Introverted
Sensing
Feeling
Judging

Mother Teresa
Charles Dickens
Snow White

THE PROMOTER

Extroverted
Intuitive
Thinking
Perceiving

Hugh Hefner
Winston Churchill
Ernest Hemingway

THE CRAFTER

Introverted
Sensing
Thinking
Perceiving

Katharine Hepburn
Clint Eastwood
Michael Jordan

THE PERFORMER

Extroverted
Sensing
Feeling
Perceiving

Elvis Presley
Magic Johnson
Elizabeth Taylor

THE COMPOSER

Introverted
Sensing
Feeling
Perceiving

Paul Gauguin
Wolfgang Mozart
Barbra Streisand

THE TEACHER

Extroverted
Intuitive
Feeling
Judging

Mikhail Gorbachev
Ronald Reagan
Vladimir Lenin

[illegible]

Introverted
Intuitive
Feeling
Judging

Jimmy Carter
Emily Dickinson
Luke Skywalker

THE CHAMPION

Extroverted
Intuitive
Feeling
Perceiving

Mark Twain
Sandra Bullock
Dr. Seuss

[illegible]

Introverted
Intuitive
[illegible]
Perceiving

Emily Bronte
William Shakespeare
Mr Rogers

THE MOBILIZER

Extroverted
Intuitive
Thinking
Judging

Napoleon Bonaparte
Bill Gates
Steve Martin

THE MASTERMIND

Introverted
Intuitive
Thinking
Judging

Thomas Jefferson
Friedrich Nietzsche
Chevy Chase

THE INVENTOR

Extroverted
Intuitive
Thinking
Perceiving

Alexander the Great
Walt Disney
Steve Jobs

THE ARCHITECT

Introverted
Intuitive
Thinking
Perceiving

Albert Einstein
Marie Curie
Carl Jung

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6. Haverford College (PA)
8. Williams College (MA)
9. Reed College (OR)
10. College of Wooster (OH)
11. Centre College (KY)
12. Sewanee–U. of the South (TN)
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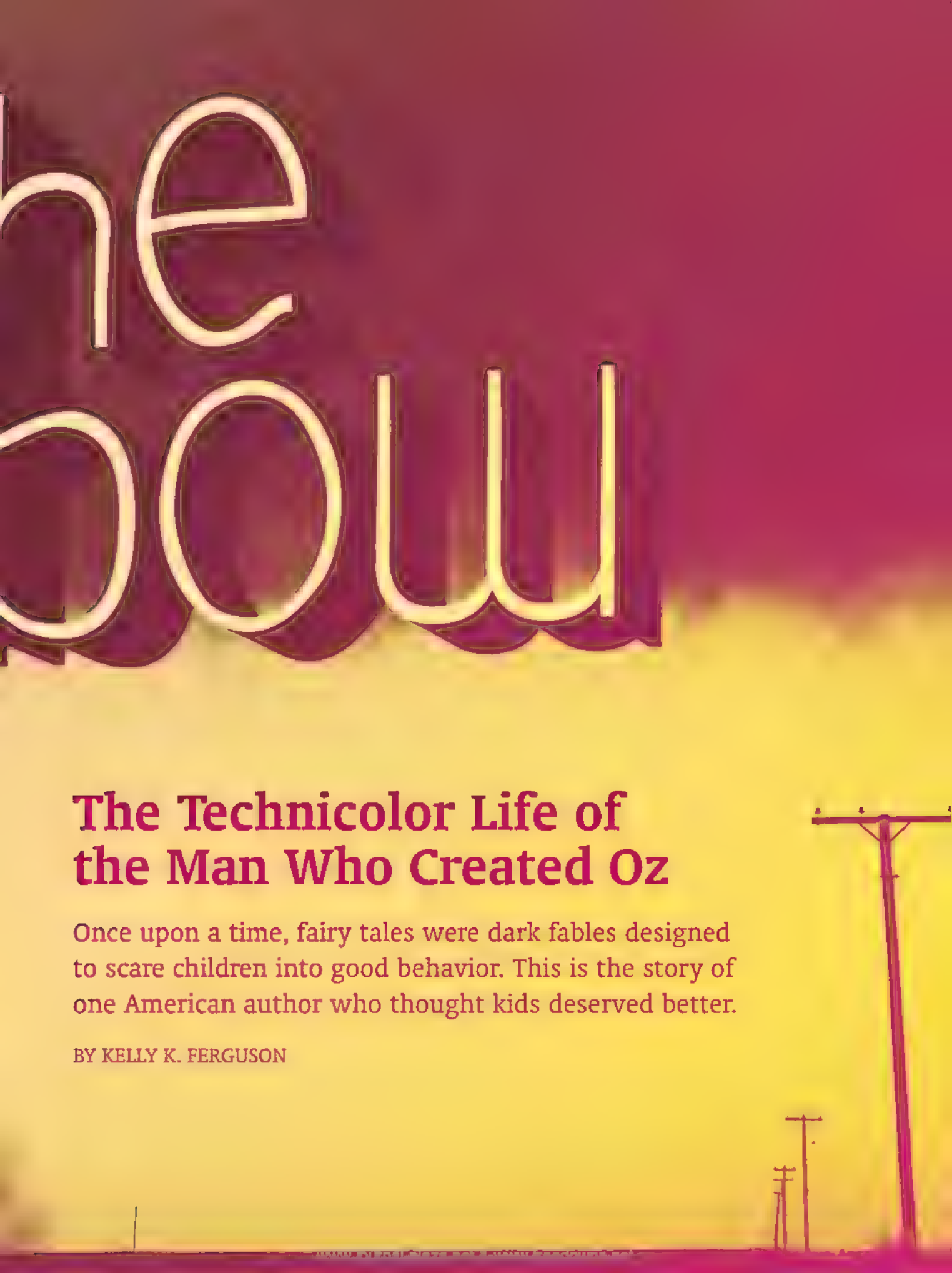
Rain



The Technicolor Life of the Man Who Created Oz

Once upon a time, fairy tales were dark fables designed to scare children into good behavior. This is the story of one American author who thought kids deserved better.

BY KELLY K. FERGUSON

IN DECEMBER 1900, L. FRANK BAUM WAS A STRUGGLING, 44-YEAR-OLD WRITER LIVING IN CHICAGO WITH HIS WIFE AND FOUR CHILDREN. CHRISTMAS WAS ONLY DAYS AWAY, AND BAUM WAS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO BUY PRESENTS FOR HIS FAMILY.

On a whim, Baum went downtown to ask his publisher for a royalties' advance for the five books he'd written that year. He walked out with a check for one of the books, and promptly stuck it in his pocket. He didn't bother to take a look at it.

When Baum arrived home, his wife, Maud, was ironing a shirt. He reluctantly handed her the check, and at the same moment, they both discovered that it was for $1,423.98—roughly $40,000 today. Paralyzed with disbelief, Maud burned a hole through the shirt.

That book, of course, was *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Lyman Frank Baum was born in 1856 in Chittenango, New York. As a child, his weak heart limited his capacity for rough-and-tumble play. So, despite being the seventh of nine kids, he spent most of his childhood alone, indoors, and dreaming.

As a young man, Baum leapt like a flea from career to career. By his early 30s, he'd been a journalist, a printer, a postage-stamp dealer, and a champion poultry breeder, which led him into publishing, with his trade journal *The Poultry Record*. He also ran his own theater company, where he wrote, directed, and acted in his own plays.

Then, in 1881, Baum met his leading lady—Maud Gage, a sophomore at Cornell. But Maud's mother, Matilda, disapproved of the union. Matilda Gage was a feminist who marched alongside Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony in the women's suffrage movement. She saw Baum as a flake who'd never amount to anything, and she told her daughter she'd be a "darned fool" to marry the itinerant actor. Yet, Baum's charm, sincerity, and uncanny ability to tell fantastic stories

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were no match for Matilda, and he soon won her over. He also became a feminist.

Frank married Maud in 1882, but troubles were around the corner. Baum's theater company went belly-up, and without local prospects, he looked west for opportunity. In 1888, he moved his family to the Dakota Territory, where he opened a store in the town of Aberdeen. (Years later, when Baum wrote descriptions of the Kansas prairie in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, he was actually describing South Dakota.) His shop, Baum's Bazaar, sold Chinese paper lanterns, Bohemian glass, gourmet chocolates, and other exotic items. But Baum overestimated the frontier's demands for novelty shopping, and in a few short years, he'd gone bust yet again.

At this point, L. Frank Baum was 35 with no career. He headed east for Chicago, where he received guidance from an unexpected source: his mother-in-law. Matilda Gage convinced Baum to pursue his one true talent, telling stories. In Aberdeen, children had stalked Baum, demanding story hour from the raconteur. Kids loved his tales because they weren't thinly disguised morality lessons. Instead, Baum's stories were fantasies filled with candy, toys, magic, and adventure. Heeding Matilda's advice, Baum decided to give writing a try.

FOLLOWING THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

In 1899, Baum teamed up with illustrator W.W. Denslow and published *Father Goose, His Book*, a collection of pictures and verse. The collaboration worked so well that it inspired Baum and Denslow to try their hands at a full-length novel.

As a child, Baum had loved the European fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, but he loathed the dark, grisly endings. He envisioned a new American fairy tale in which ingenuity and spunk paid off. In Baum's words, he wanted to create a world where "wonderment and joy are retained, and the heartache and nightmares left out."

It was a great idea, but what would he call this utopia? Family legend holds that Baum scanned his office for ideas. While staring at his filing cabinet, he drew inspiration from a label on the bottom drawer marked "O-Z."

Baum's book was turned down by every major publishing house. Finally, a distribution company agreed to take on the novel about Oz, but only if Baum and Denslow agreed to shoulder the printing expenses. The bet paid off. Today, the masterful integration of color illustrations and text is heralded as a pioneering achievement in literature, a precursor to the graphic novel. Denslow's drawings were unique in that they not only reflected the plot, but also furthered it. His vibrant pictures spilled over from one page to the next.

More importantly, children loved Baum's story. By the end of 1900, Maude had burned a hole through her husband's shirt, and *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* was the best-selling book in America.

OZ FEST

Over the next 20 years, Baum would pen more than 70 books under several pseudonyms. Unfettered by gender restrictions, he often wrote under female names, including Suzanne Metcalf, Laura Bancroft, and Edith Van Dyne. Baum also tried his hand at science-fiction, demonstrating a knack for predicting the future on par with H.G. Wells. A running theme in Baum's work was the triumph of technology over distance and time, and many of his fictional inventions—televisions, satellites, cell phones, laptops—eventually became realities of everyday life.

For MORE incredible stories of unlikely authors visit mentalfloss.com/more

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What would Baum call his utopia? Family legend holds that the author drew inspiration from a label on the bottom drawer of his filing cabinet marked "O-Z."

In 1902, *Oz* was transformed into a Broadway musical, shortened simply to "The Wizard of Oz." At first, Baum was taken aback by some of the changes. For instance, Dorothy's faithful companion on the stage wasn't Toto, but a cow named Imogene. But when the play became a Broadway hit, Baum softened. He tried to return to the theater to produce his own plays, but all his efforts, including "The Whatnexters" and "The King of Gee Whiz," were flops. He also tried his hand at a vaudeville show, "Fairylogues and Radio Plays," but that foundered, too.

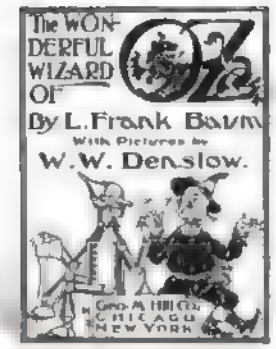
The truth was that Baum wanted to stop writing about Dorothy and do something new. He intended for the sixth Oz book, *The Emerald City of Oz*, to be the last in the series. In the story, Baum seals off his fairyland, proclaiming it unreachable from the outside world. But when a film project he was pursuing collapsed, Baum quickly found himself strapped for funds again. He wrote another Oz book, and from then on, Dorothy and the gang kept resurfacing every time Baum needed to pad his wallet.

IT'S A TWISTER

In 1919, Baum died of the same heart condition that had kept him indoors as a child. But even death couldn't stop the Oz stories from flowing. Baum wrote the 14th book in the series, *Glinda of Oz*, on his deathbed, and it was published posthumously. After that, various authors churned out 26 official sequels, which have been translated into 22 languages, from Tamil to Serbo-Croatian.

In 1939, the Oz legacy hit a turning point when MGM released *The Wizard of Oz* movie. Based on Baum's original storyline, the plot and characters remained relatively faithful to the book, although there were plenty of changes, too. Most of the quotables ("And your little dog, too!") were Hollywood additions, as were the musical numbers and dancing little people. There were some changes to the story, as well. Dorothy's slippers, which were silver in the book, were changed to ruby in the movie to show off the new technology of color film. The key difference between the two versions is that in the movie, Dorothy's adventure was "all a dream," while in Baum's book, Oz was very much real. In fact, later in the book series, Uncle Henry and Auntie Em move to the Emerald City to dine off jeweled plates and converse with talking animals. As it turned out, nobody really wanted to go home to Kansas.

The movie established Dorothy, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion as cultural icons. Flying monkeys and yellow brick roads became part of the national psyche, and today, Oz's popularity shows no sign of waning. The movies, the spin-offs, the Broadway musicals, the plays, and—more recently—the pop-up book just keep cropping up. Much like Dorothy and the gang, Baum took the long way to finding his true calling, but there's no denying that he left behind an enduring legacy. By writing the quintessential American fairy tale, Baum proved that even late bloomers living in their own fantasy world are entitled to happy endings.



The Wizard War

L. Frank Baum may have been a hit with kids from the get go, but for decades, he incurred the wrath of librarians. Maybe they disapproved of Dorothy's short gingham dress, or perhaps they objected to her penchant for picking up strange men. Whatever the reason, in the 1930s, librarians in New York removed the entire series from bookshelves.

The campaign against Oz culminated in the "Wizard War of 1957," in which librarians across the country followed New York's lead and took thousands of copies of the books out of circulation. But Baum fans did not go gently into that good night. Conservative pundit William F. Buckley championed the book in the *National Review*, and in time, authors such as Ray Bradbury, Gore Vidal, William Styron, Shirley Jackson, and Nora Ephron all acknowledged their admiration for the Oz books. Today, Baum ranks among J.R.R. Tolkien and Lewis Carroll in the canon of classic children's fairy tale authors, and librarians catalog his books with pride.

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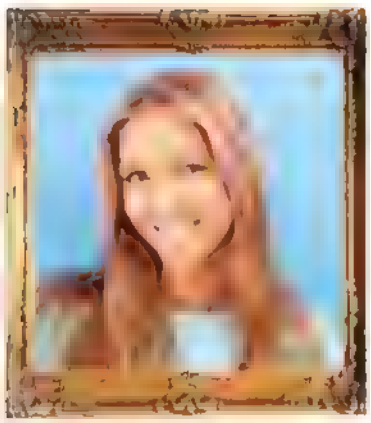
Roller skates: *(noun):* shoes with wheels attached, for use on a sidewalk or other surface offering traction.

Sunflower: *(noun):* any of a genus (*Helianthus*, especially *H. annuus*) of New World composite plants with a showy yellow-rayed flower head bearing edible seeds that yield an edible oil.



Mensa Member: *(noun)* undefined.

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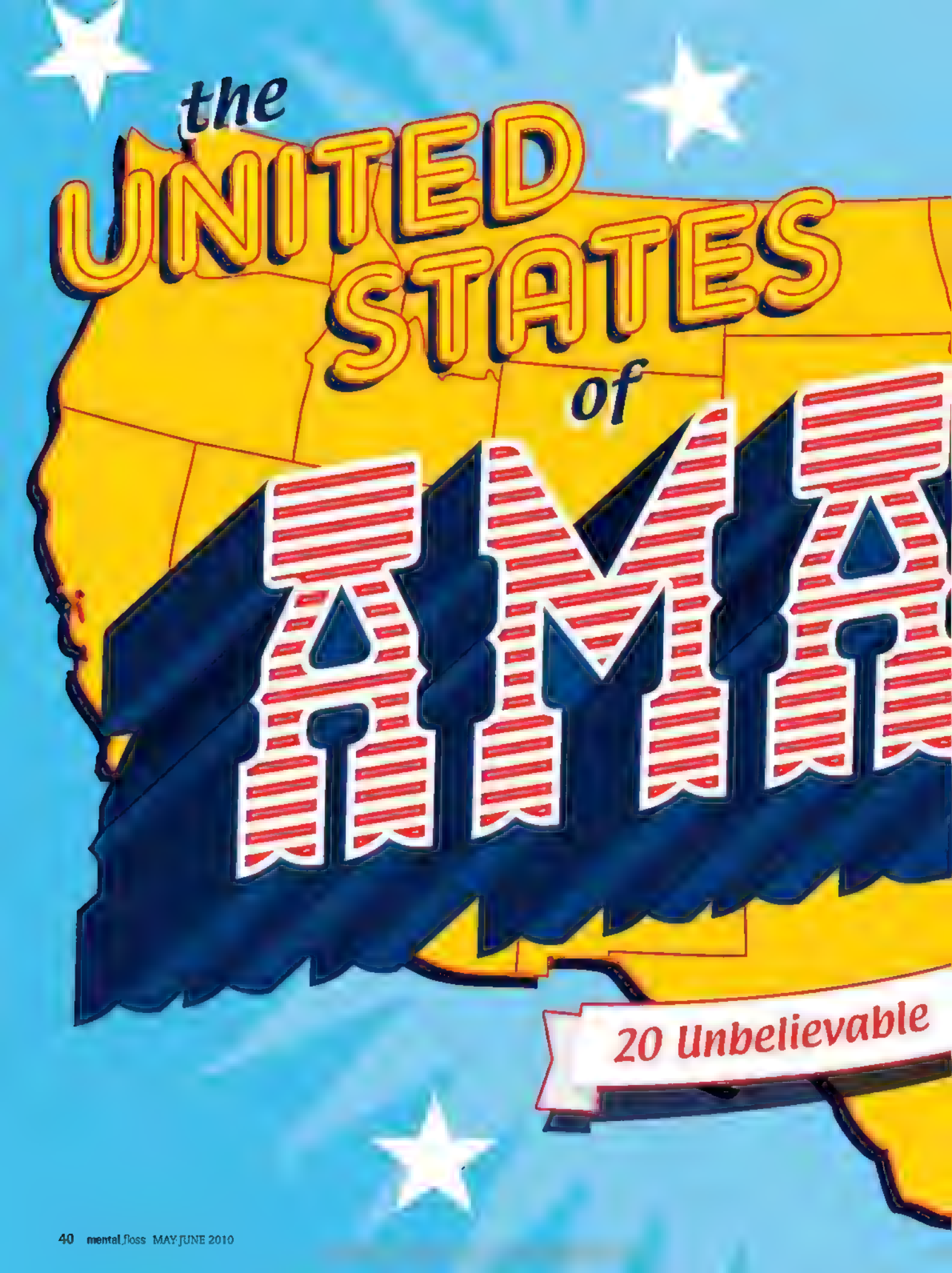
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The Greatest American Pastime

AMISH BASEBALL

There's nothing more American than baseball, except perhaps Amish baseball. When Amish children and adults take to the field, the men sport black suits and beards, and the women wear full-length dresses and bonnets. But it's more than the clothes that make the game different. The Amish go out of their way to avoid being proud or vain, meaning that even the mildest chatter doesn't occur on the sidelines. In fact, because the Amish consider loudness to be displeasing to God, the innings pass in total, meditative silence. You could watch the Amish play ball for hours and hear nothing more than the crack of the bat and the pounding of base-runners' feet.

The Amish participate in a number of different sports—softball, dodgeball, volleyball—but when they play, there's no thrill of victory or agony of defeat. Being noncompetitive is a cherished Amish virtue, so winning and losing aren't important. In most games, the players don't even keep score. The sports are simply exercises in quiet cooperation—a crucial part of the lifestyle.

—ETHAN TREX

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BOONTLING

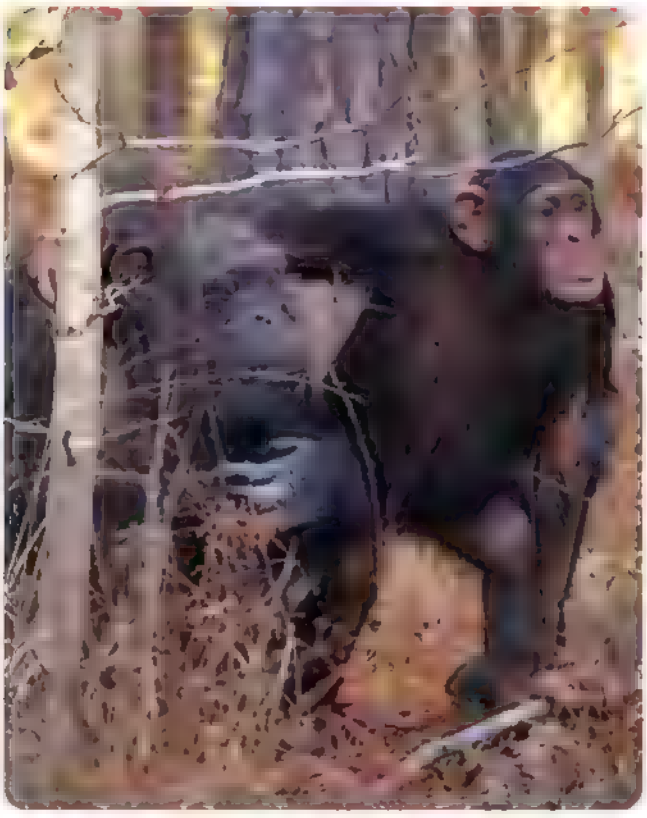
A Language of the People, by the People, for Certain People

To help protect our multiculturalism, the United States has no official language. And nowhere is that more apparent than in Booneville, Calif. In the late 1800s, the townspeople of Booneville invented their own native tongue, called Boontling. A combination of onomatopoeic words and inside jokes, Boontling is mostly derived from local lore. "Burlapping," for example, recalls the time the general-store clerk was caught doing the horizontal mambo with his girlfriend on a burlap sack in the storeroom. "Walter" is the word for a telephone, because Walter was the first guy in town to get one. A "shoveltooth" is a doctor—an allusion to the unfortunate teeth of the local M.D.

Why take the time to construct such a complicated argot? For most of the early 1900s, Booneville was isolated from the modern world, so Boontling wasn't just the lingua franca, it was the most entertaining thing in town. It was also a way to guard against outsiders. Bootling came in handy for passing secrets in front of strangers or calling plays during ballgames, and it became especially useful when the young men of Booneville went to war. The soldiers were able to write completely uncensored letters home, because the censors had no clue what they were writing. Today, only a handful of people can still "harp Boont," but the language lives on in tourist signs and beer names at the local brewery.

—MAGGIE KOERTH-BAKER

The World's Best Retirement Plan (for Chimpanzees)



© CHIMP HAVEN, INC

When older Americans retire, they can look forward to Social Security checks. But when chimpanzees hit that golden age, they can look forward to Chimp Haven, the world's greatest primate retirement home.

Built on 200 acres of forest in northwestern Louisiana, Chimp Haven features outdoor playgrounds with jungle gyms, plenty of pristine forest to romp through, and full-time veterinary care.

Why build this incredible sanctuary? For decades, the United States has boasted some of the best research centers in the world. But by the mid-1990s, those centers had produced a strange side effect—an unneeded population of roughly 1,800 aging chimpanzees. With the emergence of DNA imaging and computer technology, fewer labs relied on animal testing, and a lot of chimps were left without jobs. Zoos weren't an option because they stay fully stocked, but the chimps couldn't be released into the wild, either. After years in captivity, they wouldn't be able to fend for themselves. Plus, scientists were worried that the chimps might infect the wild populations with whatever diseases they'd been given in the labs.

In 1997, the National Institutes of Health came up with an elegant solution—to create a network of chimp sanctuaries across America. This prompted the creation of the Chimpanzee Health Improvement, Maintenance, and Protection (CHIMP) Act, which allocated $30 million to care for captive chimpanzees and build them a retirement home. Amazingly, the Senate passed the act unanimously. Today, Chimp Haven houses as many as 125 chimpanzees at a time. Although most of them are former research subjects, the retirement home has become a sanctuary for former pets and entertainers, as well. —LINDA RODRIGUEZ

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His motto was clear: "Shameless exploitation in pursuit of the common good."

Paul Newman

salad dressing philanthropist

Paul Newman was one of the most respected actors of the 20th century, with more than 60 films to his credit—*Cool Hand Luke*, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, and *The Hustler*, just to name a few. And while there are plenty of reasons to celebrate Paul Newman the Actor, we choose to celebrate Paul Newman the Salad Dressing Maker, a man who turned oil and vinegar into one of the most successful philanthropic ventures in history.

The idea for Newman's Own was born in 1980 in Westport, Conn., where Newman once lived. His friend and neighbor, writer A.E. Hotchner, had been teasing the actor about one of his peculiar habits. Newman would go to fancy restaurants, ask for olive oil, vinegar, mustard, and fresh black pepper, and then make his own salad dressing at the table. That Christmas, fueled by a few holiday beers, Hotchner and Newman headed to Newman's basement, mixed up a vat of the actor's salad dressing, and stirred it up with a canoe paddle. The merry duo poured the concoction into wine bottles and doled out the homemade goodies to their neighbors. But when the bottles suddenly became hot items at the local grocery store, Hotchner and Newman realized they were on to something.

Early on, Newman decided two things about his new business venture. One, he had no problem using his handsome face to sell the brand. Two, he wanted all the profits to go directly to charity. His motto was clear: "Shameless exploitation in pursuit of the common good."

Over the past 28 years, Newman's Own has given more than $280 million to charity. Much of that money goes to the Hole in the Wall Gang camps, an international group of 11 free camps for children with cancer and other life-threatening illnesses. Newman started the first one in Connecticut in 1988. He was involved with almost every aspect of its development, right down to the camp uniforms, which include cowboy hats that cleverly hide chemotherapy-induced baldness. Today, the Hole in the Wall Gang camps serve more than 15,000 children a year.

Newman didn't like being recognized for his philanthropic efforts, though. After he received his second honorary Oscar, the 1993 Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, he vowed never to accept an award for his charity work again. Just to prove that he meant it, years later, he burned his Oscar tux in a bonfire on his front lawn.

On September 26, 2008, Paul Newman passed away at the age of 83. But his smile lives on, lining the aisles of grocery stores across America. —LINDA RODRIGUEZ

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Diners, and the Great American Midnight Feast

Thanks to a national love of highways and hash browns, diners have dotted the country's landscape for more than a century, serving as little oases of grease and goodness.

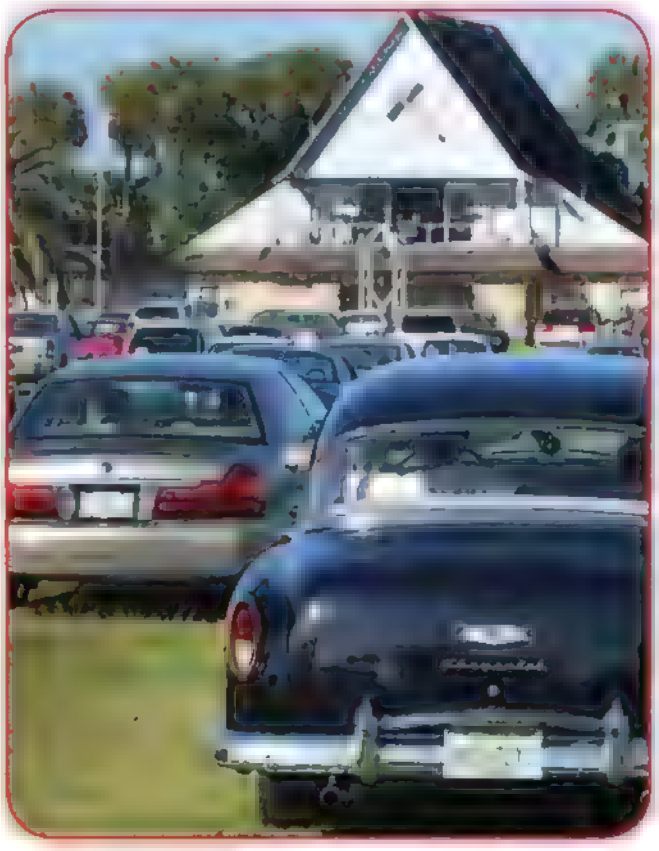
The first diner dates to the post-Civil War era when Walter Scott, a printing-press operator for the *Providence Journal*, got the idea to sell food and drinks to his fellow night-shift workers. At the time, restaurants in Rhode Island closed just after dark, leaving night owls hungry. So, Scott started selling snacks to the local newspaper men, and before long, he had enough business to quit his printing job. In 1872, he bought a small wagon and a horse named Patent Dick and set up shop in front of the *Journal* building.

For a nickel you could get a ham sandwich, a hardboiled egg, or half a pie—huckleberry, mince, cranberry, squash, or, of course, apple. For 30 cents, you could get a whole chicken dinner. The food was good, but the clientele was less reliable. Scott's patrons were mainly late-night rowdies and night-shift workers who enjoyed the "dine and dash." To prevent patrons from skipping out on the bill, Scott made a habit of holding onto people's hats until they paid.

Imitators sprang up across the Northeast. Soon, the wagons began to take on the now-familiar shape of a diner, with long counters flanked by round stools bolted to the floor. By the 1920s, diner wagons were everywhere, causing congestion in the streets. But following World War II, when Americans moved out of the cities and into the suburbs, the diners followed them to the highways. Diner manufacturers even outfitted their pre-fab structures in bright, futurist chain-less steel to dazzle against headlights and grab the attention of passing drivers.

Diners have remained a mainstay of American culture, and in recent years, nostalgia has invigorated the diner industry abroad. You can go to Denny's in Costa Rica, or Johnny Rockets in Qatar. Bottomless cups of coffee and breakfast for dinner might just be America's greatest gift to the world.

—LINDA RODRIGUEZ



One Nation, Under God, in a Parking Lot

What do you get when you cross religion with 1950s nostalgia? The Drive-In Christian Church of Daytona Beach, Fla. Since opening in 1953, the Drive-In Church has hosted weekly services for its members, who pull into the parking lot, recline their seats, and pray. There's no popcorn, no Twizzlers, and certainly no making out in the backseat. However, the church does offer to-your-door communion service, where ushers walk from vehicle to vehicle dispensing blessed wine in small plastic cups. Parishioners can also hear (or mute) the church choir simply by turning the dial on their car radios. Members of the congregation say it's just like a normal church, only it doesn't matter what you wear. Dog lovers may be swayed by one other perk: If Fido likes going for rides, he's welcome to come with you. In fact, dog biscuits are provided during services, too. —HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS

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All (American) Dogs Go to Heaven

About 74 percent of Americans believe in heaven, and about 62 percent of Americans own pets. So it should come as no surprise that every year, millions of Americans take their dogs, cats snakes, lizards, llamas, and falcons to houses of worship to be blessed. Although it's difficult to track the actual number of animals that receive benediction each year, we do know that the largest animal-blessing event takes place every October at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. In 2009, thousands of animals—including monkeys, yaks, ducks, and camels—showed up there, their owners in tow, to receive a blessing

The question of whether our furry friends can actually get into heaven is a matter of theological debate, however. Over the years, American scholars, politicians, and Hollywood stars have weighed in on the issue. Perhaps Will Rogers said it best: "If there are no dogs in heaven, then when I d.e, I want to go where they went." —HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS

THE LUMBEE

The Melting Pot Within the Melting Pot

If America is all about diversity, then nobody is more American than the Lumbee. The Native American tribe, based in North Carolina, boasts more than 40,000 members of black, white, and Native American ancestry. Strangely, however, that wealth of diversity has also made them perpetual outsiders.

The Lumbee have been around for a long time, although their exact origins remain unknown. One widely held theory is that the tribe is partially comprised of descendants of the "Lost Colony." Around 1590, English settlers famously abandoned a New World colony at Roanoke. According to this theory, the abandoned settlers then joined forces with the local Croatan Indians. Later, when Europeans began wiping out tribes wholesale, the Croatan linked up with several other tribes and created a mixed group, which adopted English as a common language.

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David Kalb

(trick-shooter)

At age 18, LeBron James was the NBA's No. 1 draft pick. Before he'd even played his first professional basketball game, he'd signed a $90-million endorsement contract with Nike. Since then, LeBron, now 25, has lived up to every bit of the hype.

That's why it was so shocking when a 30-year-old warehouse manager from California took LeBron to school in a simple game of H-O-R-S-E in September 2008. His name is David Kalb, and this is his story.

Kalb had played some basketball in college, but his real skill was sinking impossible shots. So when lawn equipment company Cub Cadet sponsored a trick-shooting competition, Kalb couldn't resist. Contestants were asked to submit videos of their craziest shots, and the winner would get a chance to play H-O-R-S-E with LeBron James. Kalb's submission was startling. He placed a basketball goal on top of a spinning forklift, and then bounced a basketball off a wall and into the hoop. He won the contest, hands down.

When the warehouse manager and the basketball phenom faced off on an outdoor court in Venice Beach, no one expected Kalb to win. But the underdog hung an "H" on LeBron almost immediately. For his first shot, Kalb threw the ball high into the air, sprinted around the backboard, caught the ball, and then sunk it into the hoop. LeBron didn't even come close to mimicking the shot. Moments later, once Kalb had officially defeated LeBron, the superstar called for a best two-out-of-three. Kalb proceeded to administer another beatdown, this time using even wilder shots. For his final throw, Kalb sunk an easy, underhanded free throw, which LeBron helplessly bricked. Upon losing the second game, the star jokingly chucked the ball away, but then heartily congratulated the trick-shooter.

"I don't know how [Kalb] did it or where his mind was when he came up with some of those trick shots," LeBron told the press, "but he definitely showcased his talent today."

LeBron vowed to use some of Kalb's tricks on his NBA teammates, and Kalb went on to become a YouTube sensation. More than 3 million viewers have watched the warehouse manager dominate King James. —ETHAN TREX

What's known for sure is that the Lumbee became even more diverse as time passed, absorbing runaway slaves and white deserters from various wars. During the Jim Crow era, the Lumbee ran their own integrated schools and fought against racism. Most notably, in 1958, a band of Lumbee men broke up a Ku Klux Klan rally and succeeded in having the Klan members arrested.

But the Lumbee's odd history has barred them from certain privileges. Although they've had state recognition as a native tribe since 1885, they didn't win federal recognition until 1956. Even then, the government didn't grant them access to federal funding as a tribal state. This is mainly because other Native American tribes—primarily the Cherokee—believe the Lumbee's claim to statehood is suspect. This year, the conflict has finally come to a head. Two bills that would grant full recognition to the Lumbee passed in the House of Representatives and made it out of committee in the Senate. If the Senate passes them, and President Obama signs them, the Lumbee will finally have the official recognition they've waited more than a century for. —MAGGIE KOERTH-BAKER

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Dorothy Peterson

octogenarian table-tennis shark

she's a cold-blooded table-tennis assassin

Dorothy Peterson is more than a grandmother in her 80s; she's a cold-blooded table-tennis assassin. And she's got the trophy case to prove it. Each year, this Serena Williams of the 85-and-up set treks to the Huntsman World Senior Games in Utah and returns home to North Mankato, Minn., with a suitcase full of gold medals.

Peterson's age and dominance have left her with one problem, though: She can't find worthy opponents. After she laid waste to the competition at the 2008 games, *The Mankato Free Press* wrote a story about her fruitless search for decent competitors. The Associated Press picked up the story, and Peterson became national news. Then a contender stepped forward—a 77-year-old man with his own talk show. He challenged Peterson to an on-air match, and that's how Peterson ended up playing Regis Philbin during an episode of *Live with Regis and Kelly*.

Regis may be the hardest-working man in television, but he couldn't fend off Peterson's forehand. The affable host quickly learned what her opponents already knew: Peterson's wrists may be well into their ninth decade, but they can still generate some vicious spin. By the time the ball stopped bouncing, Peterson had thrashed Regis, 15-6.

These days, Peterson uses her newfound fame to promote an active lifestyle for senior citizens. She closes each interview by reminding her fellow seniors, "If I can do it, you can do it. Age is just a number." As for her search for competitors, let's just say that the 2009 World Senior Games had a big increase in turn-out for women over 85. Peterson welcomed her new challengers by dominating the women's singles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles competitions. You didn't think the champ would go easy on the new meat, did you? —ETHAN TREX

DOROTHY PETERSON COURTESY JOHN CROSS

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Henderson went on to detail his firm belief that an illustrious, all-powerful deity, known as the Flying Spaghetti Monster, created the universe.

PASTAFARIANISM

Where Non-Believers Have a Voice

In 2005, the Kansas State Board of Education passed a referendum allowing public schools to teach creationism as an alternative to evolution. Bobby Henderson, a 25-year-old with a physics degree from Oregon State University, was appalled. He became so incensed that he published an open letter to the board on his Web site, arguing that if creationism can be taught in public schools, so should every theory that conflicts with evolution. Henderson went on to detail his firm belief that an illustrious, all-powerful deity, known as the Flying Spaghetti Monster, created the universe. He then insisted that his faith, which he dubbed "Pastafarianism," should be taught in schools, as well.

Henderson's irreverent letter went viral online and quickly became a rallying cry for opponents of intelligent design. Capitalizing on the fame, Henderson appointed himself the "prophet" of the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster and began to elaborate on the rites of the Church on his Web site. To choose just one example, prayers to the Flying Spaghetti Monster should not end in "amen," but rather "ramen." Henderson published *The Gospel of the Flying Spaghetti Monster* in March 2006, which has sold more than 100,000 copies. The Church now boasts thousands of "followers," mostly on college campuses. —**HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS**

PING-PONG WAS MADE FOR YOU AND ME

Ping-Pong originally came from England, but recently, New Yorkers put a truly American spin on it. It all started a few years ago, when three filmmakers stuck a Ping-Pong table in their New York office as a workday diversion. Their friends began coming over for games, and before long, they had to buy more tables to keep up with the massive influx of players. As the crowds grew, the place became a hotspot for celebrities ranging from Salman Rushdie to 50 Cent.

But here's the thing. The games weren't exclusive events staged behind a velvet rope. In true American fashion, the stars played against people of all backgrounds—European table-tennis hustlers, players from New York's housing projects, Brooklyn hipsters, and everyone in between. The three filmmakers eventually decided to turn their hobby into a business, and in 2009, they teamed up with celebrity investor Susan Sarandon to open SPiN New York, an upscale table-tennis club with a full bar. Of course, Sarandon is more than a silent partner with a deep wallet; she's also an avid player. —**ETHAN TREX**

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WORLD'S LARGEST SCULPTURE IN PROGRESS
The Crazy Horse Memorial mountain sculpture in the Black Hills of South Dakota is dedicated to the great Sioux hero Crazy Horse. When complete, the sculpture will be longer than two football fields and will stand about 56 stories high. But right now, nobody knows when that day will be. Sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski began work on the project in 1948, but died after chipping away at the sculpture for 34 years. He's buried in a tomb at the base of the mountain, and today, his wife and 10 children remain in charge of the sculpture's completion.
WORLD'S LARGEST DINOSAUR SCULPTURES
In the deserts near Palm Beach, Calif., dinosaurs still roam the Earth. Well, two dinosaurs, and they're made of concrete. Dinny the Apatosaurus and Mr. Rex the T-Rex were built more than 30 years ago by Claude K. Bell. Dinny took 11 years to build, weighs 150 tons, and harbors a gift shop in her stomach. Mr. Rex took seven years, weighs 100 tons, and invites visitors to stand inside his head and look out through his teeth. The dinosaurs roamed in relative quiet until 1985, when they appeared in Pee-wee's Big Adventure and became overnight celebrities.
These days, the dinosaurs are enjoying a second wave of fame as part of an outdoor teaching museum run by creationists. How can people who don't believe in evolution run a dinosaur exhibit, you ask? According to museum officials, the dinosaurs hitched a ride on Noah's Ark and, for a time, lived alongside humans. Eventually, they just died.

THE BEST OF THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD

America is littered with "world's largest" attractions—the world's largest buffalo, the world's largest killer bee, the world's largest talking cow. But these novelties aren't just about our love of kitsch or our massive egos. They're also about our sense of fun and our hunger for a challenge. — LINDA RODRIGUEZ

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WORLD'S LARGEST TALKING COW

Neillsville, Wisc. is home to Chatty Belle, the world's largest talking cow. She is a 16 foot tall, 20 foot long fiberglass relic of the 1964 World's Fair. Pop in a couple of quarters, and she'll ramble on about Wisconsin's dairy production.

WORLD'S LARGEST KILLER BEE

Remember when killer bees were the stuff of really bad horror flicks and *Saturday Night Live* skits? Well, the town of Hidalgo, Texas, never forgot about them. In fact, it's where the Africanized honey bees supposedly made their American debut. The killer bee is now the town mascot, and the people of Hidalgo have installed a giant, $18,500 fiberglass-and-steel statue right next to City Hall.

WORLD'S LARGEST FIRE HYDRANT

The first of the world's largest fire hydrants was built in Beaumont, Texas, in 1999, to commemorate the re-release of *101 Dalmatians* on home video. The 24 foot tall, black-and-white spotted hydrant stood proudly in front of the Fire Museum of Texas. All was well until two years later, when Canada tried to muscle in on the action. Volunteer firefighters in Elm Creek, Manitoba, built a fire hydrant in honor of Canada Day that was more than 29 feet high. Months later, in a sneak attack, an artist in Columbia, S.C., brought the record back to America. He unveiled a giant, 39-footer right in the middle of the town square.

A Second Jewish Homeland (in Space!)

Only in America can a little boy grow up to be a good Jew *and* a good Vulcan. *Star Trek*'s famous hand salute—the V formed between the ring finger and middle finger—actually comes from an ancient Jewish gesture of blessing called the *kohane*. But the story of how the two are linked goes back to a young Leonard Nimoy, who played Spock in the original TV series.

While attending Orthodox services as child, Nimoy was fascinated by the kohane; not just because it was only performed on certain holy days, but also because it was only performed by a select group of people. Use of the gesture was restricted to the Kohanim, decedents of Jewish priests who'd served in the Temple of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. The congregation wasn't even supposed to look at the blessed gesture during the ceremony, but the curious young Nimoy couldn't resist taking a peek.

Decades later, on the set of *Star Trek*, Nimoy was trying to improvise a special Vulcan greeting when he remembered the power of the kohane. Instead of using the two-handed gesture (both hands are linked at the thumb to replicate the Hebrew letter "shim"), he simplified it to one. The only problem? Actress Celia Lovsky, who was supposed to return Spock's greeting, couldn't get her fingers to split the way Nimoy's could. Luckily, with a few creative camera shots, the scene went off without a hitch. The Vulcan salute has lived long and prospered ever since.

—HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS

LOUISIANA: WHERE NAPOLEON STILL RULES!

Texas can boast that it was once an independent country, but Louisiana has something even bigger to brag about. To this day the state is the only one in the United States to operate under Napoleonic Law!

The majority of America functions under a legal system based on English Common Law, where laws are built on precedent and judges consult previous rulings to make their decisions. Louisiana, however, operates under a Civil Law system, the kind started in Rome and favored by Napoleon (who controlled the region before selling it to Thomas Jefferson). Civil Law is based on rules that are written in a big book, and judges make their decisions based on what the book says. Rules can be changed, and new rules can be added, but that's all based on legislation, not tradition.

Louisiana's big book of rules, called the Digest, was first written in 1808, in French. And while the modern version still serves as the basis for statutory areas of the legal system—property laws, family law, and some of the criminal stuff—English Common Law also applies in many cases in Louisiana. The mixture leads to some tricky situations. It also means that to pass the bar and practice law in the state, you have to know both Civil and Common Law. More importantly, thanks to all the little quirks of a dual-law system, you can't just show up in Louisiana with your law license from another state. Unlike the reciprocity which occurs between most states, any lawyer who wants to try a case in Louisiana must have passed the bar there, as well.

—MAGGIE KOERTH-BAKER

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When the Wizards pulled out to an early 15-point lead, Rawls advised the Commander-in-Chief to "warm up the limo."

HAIL TO THE CHIEF

Talking Smack with President Obama

When Barack Obama headed to Washington's Verizon Center for an NBA game in February 2009, he was probably looking forward to a relaxing evening away from the Oval Office, watching his beloved Chicago Bulls. But Obama didn't know he would be sitting in front of Miles Rawls, one of the Washington Wizards' most vocal fans. Only minutes into the game, Rawls began peppering the president with some good-natured trash talk. When the Wizards pulled out to an early 15-point lead, Rawls advised the Commander-in-Chief to "warm up the limo."

In a lot of countries, security might have whisked someone like Rawls out of the arena and tossed him in jail. Not here. Obama laughed it off and did some trash-talking of his own. It didn't seem to matter that one of them had ridden to the game in a guarded motorcade, they were just a couple of lifelong hoops fans ribbing each other. And when Wizards' center JaVale McGee slammed home a big alley-oop, even the President had to concede it was a beautiful play. In the end, the Wizards won the game, but Rawls wasn't afraid to dole out props to the opposing side. He later marveled to the press, "Where [else] can you do that, sit there and talk smack with the President of the United States, face-to-face?" —**ETHAN TREX**

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NEW AMERICAN FOLK HERO

David Tran

'hot sauce visionary'

This is the story of a boy, a dream, and a very spicy sauce. As a young man growing up in a village near Saigon, David Tran dreamt of creating the Asian equivalent of ketchup—something everybody would want to slop onto everything. During the Vietnam War, he and his family made a living selling dipping sauces that were packaged in recycled baby food jars. As the condiments grew popular with soldiers, one product became a clear favorite—a spicy, oil-based sauce, usually served with grilled meat. It was Tran's version of a Thai paste called Sriracha.

By 1979, the sauce business had raised enough money for the entire family to flee Vietnam and immigrate. Tran set out for America on a boat called the *Huy Fong*. Eventually, this boat would become the namesake for his American sauce company—Huy Fong Foods.

Tran packaged his Sriracha—a blend of red jalepeños, garlic, sugar, salt, and vinegar—in a bottle bearing a distinctive rooster seal. Initially, he hoped to sell his "Rooster Sauce" to Vietnamese immigrants. But soon, Sriracha became an American mega-hit. These days, Huy Fong Foods produces more than 10 million bottles every year, with ingredients listed on the back in Vietnamese, English, French, Chinese, and Spanish. Sriracha pages on Facebook have hundreds of thousands of fans, and at night, the Huy Fong customer service line rings off the hook with drunken pledges of devotion. Sophisticated palates enjoy Sriracha, too; celebrity chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten swears by it. When was the last time ketchup got that kind of endorsement? —**MAGGIE KOERTH-BAKER**

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT YAGER

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FROM ASBURY PARK TO THE PROMISED LAND: THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

EXTENDED THROUGH 2010

NOW OPEN IN CLEVELAND

From Asbury Park to the Promised Land: The Life and Music of Bruce Springsteen is a comprehensive look at Springsteen's music, from such early bands as Child, the Castiles and Steel Mill through work with the E Street Band and as a solo artist. The exhibit includes several of Springsteen's guitars, including the Fender Esquire on the cover of *Born to Run*. It also includes the outfit he wore on the cover of *Born in the U.S.A.*, as well as numerous handwritten lyric manuscripts, posters, handbills and various awards and honors from all phases of his career. In addition, the exhibit includes Springsteen's 1960 Chevrolet Corvette, which he purchased after the success of *Born to Run*.

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SPINNING THE GLOBE

yemen

GETTING YOUR BEARINGS

BY HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS

WHERE IS YEMEN? Just south of Saudi Arabia, on the heel of the Arabian Peninsula.

MAJOR INDUSTRY: Oil and gas

CAPITAL CITY: Sana'a. It's also the country's largest city, with a population of 1.8 million people.

KIDS RULE! Of the roughly 23 million people living in Yemen, about 46 percent of them are under the age of 14. And the baby boom has only just begun. Yemen's population is expected to double over the next two decades.

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HOW OLD IS YEMEN? Tough question. People have been living in the area for about 5,000 years. The Romans occupied Yemen, as did the Ottomans and the British. But in some ways, Yemen is only 20 years old. During the Cold War, political strife created two separate nations, pro-Western North Yemen and socialist South Yemen. The two states reunified in 1990 to form the modern country, which acts as a parliamentary democracy.

SO YEMEN IS STABLE NOW? Not really. Ever since Yemen reunited, the country has been plagued by civil wars and a faltering economy, creating a fragile state and a breeding ground for al-Qaeda militants.

MADE IN YEMEN: Over the past 5,000 years, Yemenis have given the world coffee, honey, the Queen of Sheba, and a hilarious episode of *Friends* in which Chandler tries to break up with his girlfriend by pretending to move to Yemen. But in December 2009, Yemen also gave the world the Underwear Bomber, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who made headlines by attempting to detonate explosives hidden in his pants on a flight to Detroit. Although Abdulmutallab is from Nigeria, he received his training from al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen.

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The 50¢ Tour

NRA Heaven

Yemen is one of the most heavily armed nations in the world. Some studies have indicated that there are as many as 17 million guns in the country and that about 75 percent of the male population packs heat. (Women there don't generally own guns.) Other studies put that number closer to 60 million, indicating that about 98 percent of Yemeni men own at least one weapon; most own four or five.

Many Yemeni boys receive their first gun as a rite of passage in their teenage years and keep it their entire lives. In the countryside, particularly in places where there are long-standing tribal feuds, men often shop for vegetables, visit neighbors, and drink tea, all with their AK-47s in tow.

Until recently, men could buy weapons easily at massive arms markets scattered around Yemen. But in 2007, the government began a disarmament campaign that required weapons to be registered. This led many arms dealers to move underground. Today, most Yemenis buy their weapons on the black market with relative ease. The government also made it illegal to carry firearms in major cities, such as the capital of Sana'a. Still, it's common to see young boys playing in the streets of Sana'a with plastic toy AK-47s slung over their backs.

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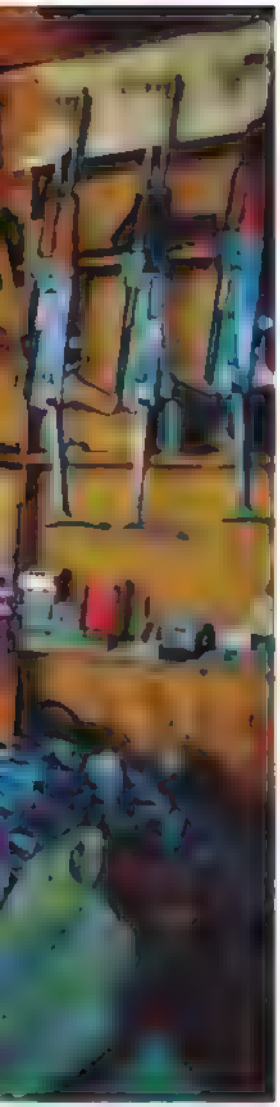

Ancient Romans nicknamed Yemen "Happy Arabia," thanks to the country's booming trade. Back then, camel caravans delivered more than 3,000 tons of frankincense to Rome and Greece every year.

Khat Fancy

Two-thirds of Yemenis chew *khat*. (Also spelled *kat* and *qat* in English, making it a great Scrabble word.) It's a mild narcotic that often makes people feel more alert and motivated. Many people chew the leaves every day for about four or five hours after lunch, and it's not uncommon to see taxi drivers, store keepers, clerks, and policemen with a wad in their cheeks.

At first, the drug acts as a social lubricant. As one Yemeni man put it, "It makes you talk like a teenage girl." But as the effects of the drug wear on, people tend to become more introspective and goal-oriented. "Every time I chew, I promise myself I'm going to do push-ups every night and finally write a book," reported another Yemeni man. "I never do."

While khat remains a major part of Yemeni culture, some believe it should be outlawed. It can cause liver damage and ulcers, and it's bad for teeth. Khat is also surprisingly expensive to buy and grow, because the trees require tons of water. In fact, khat cultivation is contributing to the nation's dire water crisis.

My Big Fat Yemeni Wedding

If you're planning to get married in Yemen, the first thing you need to know is that Yemeni weddings are not coed. The men usually convene in a banquet hall, a tent, or a courtyard, where they listen to music, take pictures, and chew khat with other men. The women meet at the groom's parents' house, or another house in the neighborhood, where they listen to music, dance, ululate (a kind of celebratory yodeling), and, of course, chew khat. After three or four days of gender-segregated celebrations, the groom is led into the room where the bride is staying. That's typically the first time the couple meets, as arranged marriages are still the norm. Then, the guests wait until the bride and groom emerge from the room, signifying that they've "sealed the deal." At this point, the men fire guns and fireworks into the air, and the women ululate some more. A good time is had by all.

Uncle Saddam

Yemenis have a thing for Saddam Hussein. It all started during the first Gulf War, when Yemen sided with Iraq. "He is a Muslim who stood up to the superpower," explained one storekeeper. Thousands of boys born around that time are named Saddam in his honor. Then, when the United States invaded Iraq again in 2003, Saddam became a national hero. If you're ever in the market for a canvas bag or a cigarette lighter with Saddam Hussein's smiling face on it, just head over to downtown Sana'a.

This Old City

The medieval architecture of the Old City of Sana'a, the capital's historic district, is both magical and dilapidated. It's like a castle made out of gingerbread that's been delicately frosted and then rediscovered months later in the back of a cabinet. It's home to 103 mosques, 14 bathhouses, and more than 6,000 houses built into towers—and much of it was constructed before the 11th century. The entire district has been designated a UNESCO Heritage Site, with the hope that it will be protected and renovated carefully. Unfortunately, due to dwindling funds and a bankrupt government, more and more of the old houses are collapsing every year.

Yemen's port city of Mocha was once famous for its coffee exports. Its java had a distinctive chocolate flavor that made it a hit in Europe—and led to the misnomer of mocha meaning chocolate flavored coffee. Mocha originally—and more accurately—referred to quality Arabian coffee.

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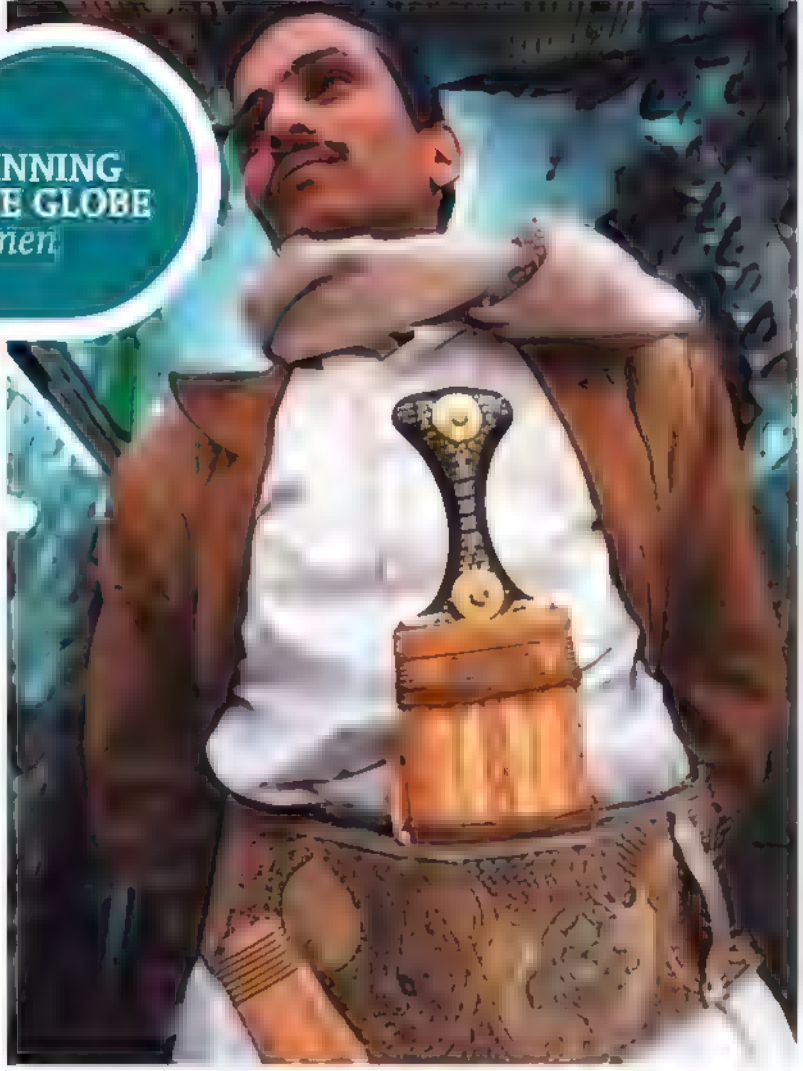

The Meaning of Knife

Lots of Yemeni men wear thick, foot-long curved daggers strapped to their waists, just above their bellybuttons. The daggers, called *jambiyas* (jam-BEE-yas), have been a part of the traditional Yemeni dress since way back before Islam hit the scene. Historically, a man's *jambiya* was his prized possession, passed down from one generation to the next. It was at once a weapon, a status symbol, and an investment, because the daggers often appreciate over time. Nowadays, *jambiyas* are still highly valued, and many Yemeni men, especially in the north, wear them to work, to school, and just to hang out.

Crude Politics

Yemen's economy is in a world of hurt. For starters, it's almost entirely dependent on the waning oil and gas industry, which supplies 70 percent of the government's revenue and accounts for 90 percent of the nation's exports. According to a 2008 World Bank report, the oil and gas reserves will dry up over the next decade, and the oil fields could be tapped out as early as 2017. The other four large sectors of the economy—tourism, fisheries, trade, and agriculture—aren't doing well, either. Tourism is particularly weak. In 2007, local al-Qaeda operatives began killing Westerners at major tourist attractions, and Spring Break Yemen has been a tough sell ever since. These days, an estimated 35 percent of Yemeni men are unemployed.

In 2008, Dutch scientists in Yemen discovered the footprints of a dinosaur herd from 150 million years ago. It was a huge moment in paleontology. But recently, no dinosaur bones had ever been found on the Arabian Peninsula.

TRAVELER'S NOTEBOOK

The Lighter Side of the World's Worst Place to Be a Woman

BY HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS

The woman in front of me in line at Fun City—a surreal amusement park in the center of Yemen's capital—orders three strawberry ice cream cones and a large fries.

Like most Yemeni women, she's wearing a floor-length black robe and a long black veil, called a *niqab*. Her entire face is covered, with the exception of a thin slit for her eyes, and her silhouette bears an uncanny resemblance to a giant, elegant penguin. I watch her gloved hand rifle through her wallet, and then expertly receive change from the male cashier without touching his skin. She passes two of the ice cream cones to her grown daughters. Both are also veiled from head to toe.

The mother, Faisa, and her daughters are my friends. I've spent the afternoon with them, lounging in their living room and dancing to theme songs from American sitcoms. But if I were to lose them in this crowd of identically cloaked women, I'm pretty sure I'd never find them again.

The New Black

Yemeni women only began wearing this ultraconservative clothing 20 or 30 years ago. Before then, most women wore either traditional, multicolored dresses with loosely tied headscarves or Western-style clothing. This was especially true in the southern region of the country, which once maintained liberal notions of gender equality. South Yemen, formerly a British protectorate, was a separate nation from 1967 to 1990. But when Yemen reunified, women's rights were lost in the process.

"It's been really hard, you know, growing up in one tradition and then just accepting another," said housewife Samira Taher, who grew up in South Yemen in the 1970s. In her youth, she had gone to a coed school, attended a coed university, and had male friends. "Now, I cannot talk to my old [male] friends.

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I can't call them on the phone or show them old photographs of all of us together," she explains. "I can't even do my hair or wear what I want. Even if I wear my [headscarf] a little bit loose—maybe show my forehead—people stare at me on the street."

During the past two decades, unified Yemen, like most of the Arab world, has grown much more conservative. This is due in part to the influence of Saudi Arabia's hardline version of Islam, called Salafism. "Women are our jewels," Sheikh Ali Al-Werafi, an ultraconservative member of parliament, told me. "Would you show off your jewels to strangers, or would you keep them covered to protect them?"

According to Yemeni law, a woman must have permission from her brother, father, or husband to leave the house, board a plane, buy a bus ticket, get married, run for office, enroll in school, or get a driver's license. In court, her testimony is worth only half that of a man. The vast majority of Yemeni women who live outside the major cities spend their days finding water, shepherding goats, and doing manual labor—all while wearing the niqab.

When Yemen reunified in 1990, women's rights were lost in the process.

A 2009 World Economic Forum report on gender equality listed Yemen as the worst country in the world to be a woman—for the fourth year in a row. It's worse than Pakistan, worse than Saudi Arabia

Roughly half of Yemeni women are illiterate, and 70 percent don't attend secondary school. Girls are sometimes married off as young as 8 years old.

Some women's rights advocates argue that while the debate over wearing the niqab is hardly the most important issue, the headscarf is a pervasive symbol of oppression. (France recently considered outlawing it for that reason.) Ramzia Aleryani, the head of the Yemeni Women's Union in Sana'a, said the niqab isolates women and robs them of their identities. She also added that it's un-Islamic: "There is nothing in the Koran that says anything about covering your face. I am a Muslim, I pray, I fast, I follow what is in the Koran. [The niqab] is not in the Koran. It is made up by the Salafists to keep women from joining in."

Ice Cream Headache

Faisa, my friend with the ice cream cone, disagrees. She has a degree in engineering and works outside the home—both rarities in Yemen. Faisa believes the Western obsession with the niqab is unjustified.

"You," she said (meaning, I think, Westerners), "hate us for wearing it, but I wear it because it makes me feel free. When I wear it, I can talk and laugh and eat and smile, and no one looks at me. I choose to wear it. It is *my choice*."

Faisa's daughter, Shada, who has studied in the United States, rolls her eyes. "This is [the] problem," she says to me in English, so her mother can't understand. "She is right; Yemeni women cannot talk, laugh, eat, or smile in public or people will stare at them. They will think they are 'bad girls,' or crazy. *That* is the problem. Not the niqab."

At Fun City that day, I've vowed not to ask Faisa and her daughters anything concerning the veil. But those three strawberry ice cream cones, melting in the sun, force my hand.

"OK, really," I say to Faisa, "How are you going to eat that?" She throws me a sidelong look.

Faisa leans forward, pulls up the corners of her veil, and makes a small tent with the back of her hand. Then she slips the cone underneath the tent, all without revealing even a hint of skin.

I can't help but applaud. And through the slit of Faisa's headscarf, I see her sparkling brown eyes wrinkle into a smile.

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TEA AND TERRORISM
Yemen's Two Worlds

Yemen may be the new hotbed of al-Qaeda training camps. But that's not what concerns the people in the streets.

BY HALEY SWEETLAND EDWARDS

Osama bin Laden's father's house isn't very impressive. It's a two-story mud building at the bottom of a 400-foot cliff in the middle of the desert. The place is largely abandoned, and slowly decaying. Candy wrappers and plastic bags are piled up in what used to be the foyer; Arabic graffiti lines the inner walls. The caretaker, a recluse and a distant relative of bin Laden, lives in a small, dim apartment upstairs. He timidly refuses to let visitors inside.

This little ramshackle house is the reason why hundreds of news organizations habitually refer to Yemen as "the homeland of Osama bin Laden." It's a lazy turn of phrase that's only nominally true. Osama bin Laden's father was born in Yemen; Osama himself, however, was born and raised in Saudi Arabia.

Nonetheless, Yemen is no stranger to al-Qaeda. On December 25, 2009, a Nigerian student named Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab tried to ignite explosives in his underpants on an airplane headed to Detroit. Al-Qaeda operatives based in Yemen trained Abdulmutallab, and ever since his failed terrorist attack, America has declared Yemen the new home of al-Qaeda. Days after the incident, Senator Joe Lieberman called Yemen a potential site of "tomorrow's war." By January, CNN referred to the country as "a hornet's nest of terror."

The concern is well-founded; the rise of al-Qaeda in Yemen is indeed a major security problem for the West. But it tells only part of the story. The growing problem of Islamist extremism in Yemen doesn't exist in a vacuum. It's the result of a confluence of Yemen's other assorted and numerous concerns. In the words of one Yemeni political science professor, "When it comes to problems, Yemen is an overachiever."

Litany of Woes

Yemen's central government is weak, corrupt, and in many areas of the country, impotent. For 20 years, President Ali Abdullah Saleh has managed to hold onto power by divvying out state favors and buying peace from tribal leaders—all of whom have their own highly armed militias. Now that the government's primary source of income, oil revenue, is drying up, political opponents are circling like wolves.

But those are hardly Saleh's biggest troubles. For the past several years, the central government has been fighting two internal insurgencies. In the north, despite six official ceasefires since 2004, a Shiite rebellion continues to cause disastrous civilian collateral damage. In the southern part of the country, the government is battling an increasingly violent separatist insurgency, which aims to create a new

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Yemen isn't Iraq. It isn't Haiti after the earthquake. People show up to clean the street every day and little boys trot to class.

South Yemen. Both movements are fueled by a general dissatisfaction with the cash-strapped government's inability to provide basic services, such as health care, education, and electricity.

Already, nearly half of Yemen's population lives on the equivalent of less than $2 (US) a day. Almost half of all children under age 5 are malnourished. Unemployment and poverty rates are exacerbated by the tens of thousands of Somali and Ethiopian refugees who arrive on Yemen's shores every year. Some are looking for safe passage to other Gulf nations. Others, as the Yemeni government fears, want to join up with al-Qaeda or one of the other insurgencies.

"Right now, we are torn," said Yemen's deputy foreign minister, Ali Muthana Hassan. "We have many problems of our own in Yemen. We have war, al-Qaeda. Our own citizens do not have jobs. [The refugees] are an economic burden, a burden for our schools, and a burden for our cities, but we have a moral obligation to them."

By some definitions, Yemen is a failed state. The central government has relinquished control to tribal leaders in large swaths of its territory, and it doesn't have a monopoly on military power within its borders. It seems unable to provide basic security to its own people, and its perceived legitimacy is slipping.

Tea and Sympathy

Yet, Yemen isn't Iraq under Saddam Hussein. It isn't Rwanda during the genocide. It isn't Haiti after the earthquake. In Yemen, people show up to clean the streets of the capital every day. In the morning, little boys in matching green school uniforms trot to class, and in the afternoon, the local tea-shop owners will offer you a seat and a cup of tea. And if you were to drive from one end of Yemen to the other—from its northern border with Saudi Arabia to the shimmering, turquoise Gulf of Aden in the south—you'd follow a trade route that's been active for thousands of years.

On a recent Monday afternoon, I walked up the dirt road in front of Osama bin Laden's father's house, in the shadow of towering peach-yellow cliffs. I was with a neighbor from one of the nearby houses—an old, bearded man named Said Mohammed Saleh. He said his little village was too small to concern itself with President Saleh's political problems, or the insurgencies in different parts of the state, or al-Qaeda, or the whereabouts of its infamous and elusive leader.

"You want to know our major problem? We don't have enough teachers, the date palms are sick, and there's too much trash in the streets," he said, gesturing toward a 3-foot pile of pink plastic bags. "These are the things we think about here." And then, like almost every Yemeni I've ever met, he invited me inside for some tea.

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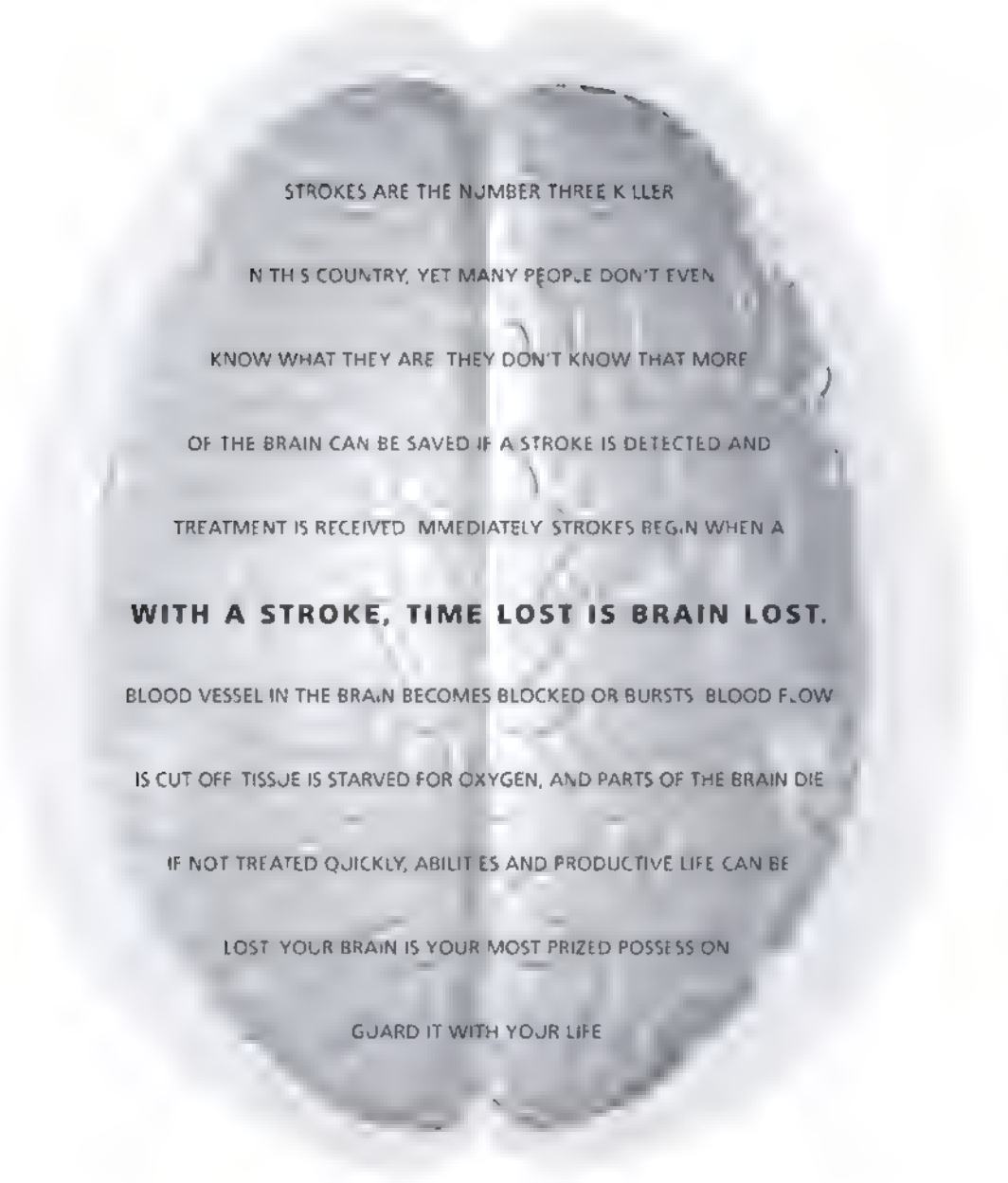
STROKES ARE THE NUMBER THREE K LLER
N TH S COUNTRY, YET MANY PEOPLE DON'T EVEN
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OF THE BRAIN CAN BE SAVED IF A STROKE IS DETECTED AND
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LOST YOUR BRAIN IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESS ON
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UNDERGROUND EDUCATION

Why Chicago Should Be Called Phoenix

This is the heroic tale of skyscrapers rising from the ashes of the Great Chicago Fire and how they inspired change architectures across the world

BY CHRISTOPHER ZARA

Chicago grew up fast. In 1840, it was a quiet settlement of 4,500 people. Three decades later, it had grown to a vibrant metropolis of 300,000. Unfortunately, the city planners didn't take much stock of the materials they were using. From the planks of the sidewalks to the shingles on the roofs, the new city was built almost entirely of wood. And in the autumn of 1871, all of that came to a head.

On October 8, during a particularly dry and windy spell, the wood and weather combined to make combustion history. That

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night, the Great Chicago Fire broke out in a DeKoven Street barn. (The O'Leary family owned it, but their cow had nothing to do with the fire.) The flames advanced quickly, engulfing nearby lumberyards and the city's downtown, and they burned for 36 hours straight. In the end, 18,000 structures were destroyed, as many as 300 people were killed, and nearly one-third of the population was left homeless.

Yet, the enduring legacy of the Great Chicago Fire is not its destruction, but the amazing rebirth that took place after it.

The rebuilding of Chicago began with Joseph Medill, managing editor and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, who personified the city's indomitable spirit. Even though the blaze had partially leveled his newspaper's headquarters, Medill cranked out a special edition two days later, affirming the city's resolve with an editorial stating, "Cheer Up ... Chicago Shall Rise Again." It was more than empty encouragement. One month later, Medill was elected mayor on the city's "Fireproof" ticket. He immediately ushered in safety reforms that set the stage for rapid development and a new wave of construction.

Within 10 years, the population of Chicago had nearly doubled. Soon, there was no more land to build on, and overcrowding was setting in. But in 1883, architect William Le Baron Jenney came up with a novel solution. He designed the innovative, 10-story Home Insurance Building—widely considered to be the world's first skyscraper. The Home Insurance Building ▼ had the steadiness of a stone cathedral, but at a third of the normal weight. Jenney's genius was in using a light steel frame covered in hollow terra-cotta tiles to prevent the spread of fire. His skyscraper inspired architects to think vertically and gave rise not just to Chicago's skyline, but also to new skylines across the globe.

Chicago's taxpayers voted for a referendum pledging an additional $5 million. To them, the World's Fair wasn't just a celebration; it was a chance at rebirth.

CITY MEETS WORLD

By 1890, less than two decades after the Great Fire, more than 1 million people were living in Chicago. It surpassed Philadelphia in population and became America's "second city," next only to New York. Despite its size, many still saw Chicago as a glorified hick town. To change that perception, the city competed with New York to host the World's Columbian Exposition, a fair to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in America. At the time, World's Fairs were serious business. They had the power to thrust a host city into the global spotlight and bring in enormous revenue and prestige.

While New York had financial titans like J.P. Morgan and William Waldorf Astor bidding in its corner, Chicago had something more compelling—a collective sense of purpose. Department store mogul Marshall Field, who'd lost his original building in the blaze, and industrialist Cyrus McCormick, who'd also lost his factory, pledged a combined $15 million to underwrite the fair. Then, an even more surprising thing happened: The taxpayers voted for a referendum pledging an additional $5 million. To them, the World's Fair wasn't just a celebration; it was a chance at rebirth.

In the end, Congress decided that Chicago's bid was stronger than New York's, and the city went on to host one of the most successful World's Fairs in history. The 1893 event introduced the world to ragtime music, shredded wheat, hamburgers, postcards, neon lights, and the Ferris wheel. It also influenced architecture for decades to come. The fairground's classical buildings inspired the nationwide City Beautiful movement, which led to the creation of the National Mall in Washington, D.C., and the fair's layout inspired modern amusement parks, such as Disneyland. The buildings even sparked the imagination of writer L. Frank Baum, who created the Emerald City in their image in his book *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*.

On October 9, 1893, on the 12th anniversary of the Great Fire, 716,881 people visited the World's Fair in one day, shattering all previous Fair attendance records. In just 22 years, Chicago had risen from a pile of rubble to the height of civilization—and the world was there to celebrate.

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QUIZ

BY KARA KOVALCHIK & SANDY WOOD

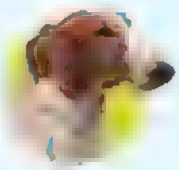
USE #2 PENCIL

1 What breed of dog is commonly referred to as the Russian Wolfhound?

[a] Basenji

[b] Saluki

[c] Whippet



[d] Borzoi

2) A blue horseshoe has long served as the logo for which NFL team?
[a] Broncos
[b] Cowboys
[c] Chargers
[d] Colts

3) Which controversial novel was originally titled *Tenderness*?
[a] *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
[b] *Lolita*
[c] *Ulysses*
[d] *Fanny Hill*

4) What telltale shape is hidden inside the FedEx logo?
[a] a truck
[b] a wedge
[c] an arrow
[d] a cross

5) Which U.S. president was the target of two known assassination attempts only 17 days apart?
[a] Franklin Roosevelt
[b] Lyndon Johnson
[c] Gerald Ford
[d] Ronald Reagan

6) Which American humorist died in a 1935 plane crash along with aviator Wiley Post?
[a] Bill Nye
[b] Will Rogers
[c] Mark Twain
[d] James Thurber

7) What's the only Protestant denomination in the United States with more than 30 million members?
[a] Baptist
[b] Presbyterian
[c] Lutheran
[d] Methodist

8) What dance-focused feature film was released in Mexico under the title *Electrodanza*?
[a] *Dirty Dancing*
[b] *Flashdance*
[c] *Footloose*
[d] *Breakin' 2: Electric Boogaloo*

9) What is the southernmost nation in Central America?
[a] Panama
[b] Guatemala
[c] Nicaragua
[d] Honduras

10) Graves' disease often causes an abnormal protrusion of which part of the human body?
[a] the nose
[b] the eyeballs
[c] the tongue
[d] the testicles

11) What British name applies to a type of sofa, a style of overcoat, and a brand of cigarettes?
[a] Davenport
[b] Winston
[c] Wellington
[d] Chesterfield

12) In 2010, which film won six Academy Awards, more than any other?
[a] *Avatar*
[b] *Precious*
[c] *The Hurt Locker*
[d] *Inglourious Basterds*

13) The word "doctor" comes from a Latin term meaning:
[a] teacher
[b] healer
[c] writer
[d] sailor

14) During World War I, the term "ace" applied to a pilot who had brought down how many enemy planes?
[a] three
[b] ten
[c] 50
[d] 100

• ERASE COMPLETELY ⟵ READ THIS DIRECTION ⟶

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15) Marsh Island lies off the coast of which U.S. state?
[a] Maine
[b] Louisiana
[c] New Jersey
[d] Florida

16) Beck's beer is a product of which European nation?
[a] Germany
[b] Belgium
[c] Ireland
[d] Norway

17) The middle initial of Confederate General Robert E. Lee stands for:
[a] Edward
[b] Eagle
[c] Eugene
[d] Edgar

18) Where would you most likely find a *pulvule*?
[a] on a printed page
[b] in the deep ocean
[c] on an oily scalp
[d] in a medicine bottle

20 Which of the 26 letters in the English alphabet is the most recent addition to the set?

[a] [b] [c] [d]

21) On American highways, hospital signs feature a white "H" on what color background?
[a] red
[b] green
[c] blue
[d] yellow

22) New York's Juilliard School was founded in 1905 to instruct students in which art form?
[a] music
[b] architecture
[c] graphic design
[d] dance

23) Members of the Religious Society of Friends are better known by what name?
[a] Mormons
[b] Shakers
[c] Quakers
[d] Jehovah's Witnesses

24) What nation is scheduled to host the XXII Olympic Winter Games in 2014?
[a] Canada
[b] Germany
[c] Russia
[d] Chile

25) According to Hallmark, what's the second-biggest card-giving holiday in America, behind Christmas?
[a] Mother's Day
[b] Halloween
[c] Valentine's Day
[d] Easter

19 What famed greeting did comedienne Minnie Pearl use to open her shows?

[a] **"Hello, Nurse!"**
[b] **"Hi-Ho!"**
[c] **"Hey, y'all!"**
[d] **"Howdy!"**

ANSWERS

1) *d* 2) *d* 3) *a* 4) *c* 5) *c* 6) *b* 7) *a [America is home to twice as many Baptists as the next-largest Protestant group, Methodists.]* 8) *b* 9) *a* 10) *b [Graves' disease is an autoimmune disease that causes an overactive thyroid.]* 11) *d* 12) *c* 13) *a* 14) *c* 15) *a* 16) *c* 17) *a* 18) *d* [illegible] 19) [illegible] 20) [illegible] *in the 16th century, which explains why it's* [illegible] *English language.]* 21) *c* 22) *a* 23) *c* 24) *c* 25) *c*

SCORING

[illegible]

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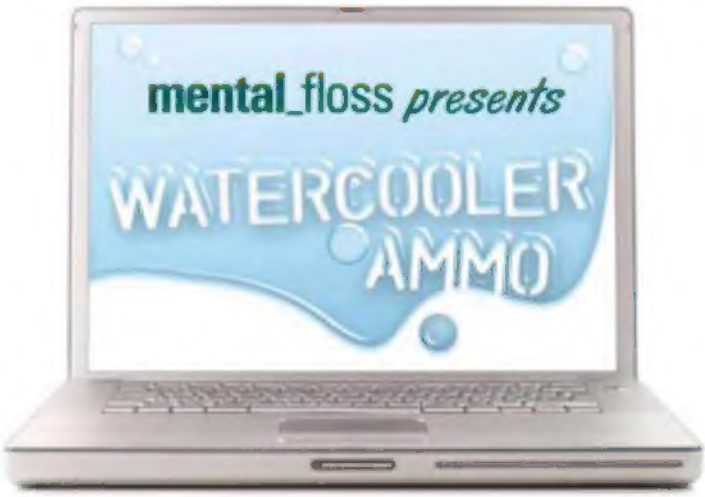

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THE LISTS

3 Royals Who Died in Embarrassing Ways

1. While "death by tennis court" rarely comes up in police reports, Charles VIII of France is proof that it can happen. In 1498, the king hit his head on a beam while walking onto a court, and later succumbed to the injury.

2. Vlad VI, Prince of Wallachia, drank too much at a banquet in 1532 and took off on his horse. He should have called a cab. The sozzled prince rode straight into the Dâmbovita River, where he drowned.

3. Alexander I of Greece died from a monkey attack. It was a surprisingly noble death. While he was walking his dog on October 2, 1920, a pair of monkeys went after his beloved pet. Quick to defend his furry friend, Alexander fought them off, but he suffered a bite on the hand. When that got infected, it led to his demise.

Important Things Decided by Phone

▸ In 1988, DC Comics conducted a phone poll to see whether or not comic book readers wanted Batman's sidekick, Robin, to be killed off. The vote was uncomfortably close. 5,343 callers voted for the superhero's death, while 5,271 voted against it. In the end, readers got what they wanted: Robin was beaten with a crowbar and then blown up.

▸ Larry the Lobster was saved from a fatal dip in boiling water when *Saturday Night Live* conducted a similar vote in 1982. At the beginning of the show, comedian Eddie Murphy held Larry up to the screen and asked viewers whether he should be served as dinner that night or go on to live a long, lobstery life. Nearly half a million people called in, and Larry received a stay of execution. Of course, how *long* Larry would live was never explained. The following week, Murphy was shown enjoying a seafood platter piled high with lobster.

3 Things You Think Are Public Domain but Aren't

"Happy Birthday To You." Written by Patty and Mildred Hill in 1893, the ubiquitous birthday song wasn't actually copyrighted until 1935. Under current copyright law, the song will remain protected until 2030.

Aspirin. The term "aspirin" falls into the public domain in America, England, France, and Russia. But that's not the case everywhere. In 80 countries around the world, the name Aspirin is still owned by German drug company Bayer AG. Why the disparity? The fine print is all there in the Treaty of Versailles. Following WWII, Bayer had to give up its trademark rights in some countries as part of Germany's war reparations.

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer. Everyone's favorite reindeer was created specifically for Montgomery Ward department stores in 1939 by a copywriter named Robert May. But May was clever enough to protect the rights. Even after he left the company in 1951, May retained ownership of the red-nosed critter.

BY STACY CONRADT

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- 10 Stars Who Started on *Sesame Street*
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MEMBER REPORT
No. 1979

WHEN OUR

DOCTOR LEFT

THE HOSPITAL FOR AN APPOINTMENT, HE TOLD ME I WASN'T EVEN CLOSE TO DELIVERING. ONE HOUR LATER, I WENT INTO

HARD LABOR.

WHEN WE FINALLY TRACKED HIM DOWN, HE STROLLED BACK IN WEARING

TENNIS CLOTHES.

I THOUGHT THIS KIND OF THING ONLY HAPPENED ON

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